Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 237 | SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

NAP closure due to Melor rouses ire of beneficiaries. **PAGE 3**

Matson cuts fuel surcharge to 25.5 percent. **PAGE 5**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support delaying federalization to December 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
October 2, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Free Shipping

LBC Mabuhay Saipan Inc. is offering a free container shipping charge for donations to typhoon victims in Manila.

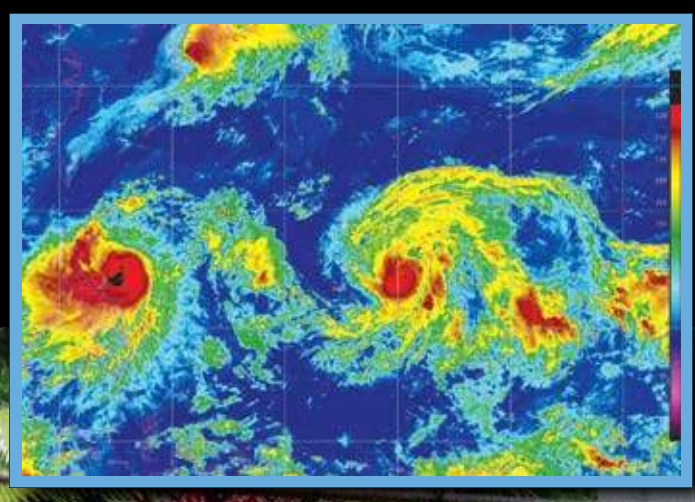
MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Health MJ

Michael Jackson wasn't the sickly skeleton of a man portrayed by tabloids, according to his autopsy report.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

NMI braces for Melor's wrath



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI battened down the hatches yesterday as it braced for Typhoon Melor, which gained strength as it whirled closer to the Northern Marianas, its 140 miles per hour winds expected to become a super typhoon today, Saturday.

See MELOR on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Floor Leader Joe Camacho, right, helps fold a tarpaulin campaign sign of him and his running mate and gubernatorial hopeful Juan "Pan" Guerrero on the side of the road in Puerto Rico at noon yesterday, to prevent them from being destroyed by Typhoon Melor, which is expected to hit the Marianas this weekend. Camacho is running for lieutenant governor as an Independent.

Flights cancelled; airport may close operation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two signatory airlines of the Commonwealth cancelled all their scheduled flights yesterday as a result of the strong typhoon expected to hit the islands today. All airports on Saipan, Rota and Tinian may shut down operations if the government declares typhoon condition 1.

Although the Commonwealth Ports Authority's administrative offices were closed, all airports remained open on

See FLIGHTS on Page 4

CUC: Feeders 4, 7 under tight watch

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be keeping a tight watch on two feeders on Saipan to ensure the continuous supply of power to all villages during the onslaught of Typhoon Melor today.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Feeders 4 and 7 will likely suffer the most if a super typhoon hits the island. These feeders

See CUC on Page 4

7 schools, 9 buses ready for evacuees

PSS cuts short professional dev't trainings

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has readied seven of its schools on Saipan and nine of its buses to help people who may need to be evacuated when Typhoon Melor hits the Marianas.

PSS Associate Commissioner for Ad-

See SCHOOLS on Page 4

Local

Military searches for bodies, brings aid to Samoas

By AUDREY McAVOY and ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

LALOMANU, Samoa (AP)— Some frightened Samoans who fled to the hills as a tsunami tore through their seaside villages vowed never to return to the coastline, while aid workers delivered water and medicine amid the growing stench of decay.

Grieving survivors began to bury their loved ones. Others gathered under a traditional meeting house to hear a government minister discuss plans for a mass funeral and burial next week.

The death toll from Tuesday's earthquake and tsunami rose to 169 Thursday as searchers found more bodies in Samoa, where 129 were confirmed dead, police commissioner Lilo Maiava told The Associated Press. Another 31 were killed in the U.S. territory of American Samoa and nine in Tonga.

Maiava said drowning appeared to be the main cause of death, and some bodies were still being plucked from the sea. Police dug others from sand, mud and debris. Maiava said the search for bodies could continue for another three weeks.

A refrigerated freight container was used as a temporary morgue for the scores of bodies at a Samoan hospital.

The United States, Australia and New Zealand sent in supplies and troops, including a U.S. Navy frigate carrying two helicopters for search-and-rescue efforts. The Hawaii Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force flew three cargo planes to American Samoa carrying 100 Navy and Army guard personnel and reservists.

Many residents who raced up hillsides as the tsunami closed in remained too scared to return to their villages. More headed to the hills Wednesday night after an aftershock shook the region.

"It's a scary feeling, and a lot of them said they are not coming to the coastal area," Red Cross health coordinator Goretti Wulf said near the flattened village of Lalomanu on the devastated south coast of Samoa's main island, Upolu. "The lesson they learned has made them stay away."

Workers at Lalomanu's makeshift emergency supply base began carting water, food, tarps and clothes to 3,000 people in the hills.

Wulf said drinking water was the most pressing problem. It is the end of Samoa's dry season, when rain is scarce, and the water pipes that supply the villages were destroyed.

Military vehicles brought food, water and medicine and medical teams gave tetanus shots and antibiotics to survivors with infected wounds.

Many survivors wore face masks to reduce the growing stench of rot.

Samoan government minister Fiana Naomi asked around 400 grieving relatives for permission to hold a mass funeral next Tuesday. She said the government would provide free coffins for the 103 bodies in the morgue.

She said other bodies had already been buried due to advanced decomposition.

One family in Lalomanu held a burial Thursday, placing seven relatives in a single, hastily dug grave. One body had been retrieved from the ocean only hours earlier. They were buried next to the fresh graves of the family patriarch and a 7-year-old relative — other victims of the tsunami who were buried Tuesday.

With 13 relatives dead, the Taufua clan is among the worst affected by the disaster.

"I'm not sure the word shock fully describes our sense of loss," relative Ben Taufua said. "Nothing makes sense at all. ... The beach where all of this happened, all those lives were lost, it was paradise on Earth."

The Samoas, which lie about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii, have breathtaking scenery. Majestic beaches give way to volcano-carved mountainsides and tropical forests are dotted with taro and coconut farms.

Before the disaster struck, the majority of the population in American Samoa lived below the poverty line. Tourism, along with tuna canneries and coconut plantations, represent the bulk of economic activity.

New Zealanders Joseph Bursin and Nicky Fryar said they scrambled to reach high ground as the tsunami surged toward their beachfront vacation resort in Samoa. Their sandals were slipping off as they sprinted up a rock-covered hill and climbed over a lagoon full of mud.

Live the Fiesta Way!
Fiesta Resort and SPA Saipan
goes down memory lane with the
RETRO NIGHTS
at the Chambre BAR
Enjoy the music of the 60's 70's and 80's with
MARIO and LORETA every Monday to Saturday.
Entertainment Monday to Friday
Saturday Latino Night 8pm-12mn
HAPPY HOUR from 5 to 7pm
Monday to Friday LIVE BAND MUSIC from 6:30p.m. to 9:15p.m.
For reservations and inquiry, please call 234-6414 ext. 1547-1548 or 233-6414
In Cooperation with
Miller Lite
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

NAP closure due to Melor rouses ire of beneficiaries

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many beneficiaries were disappointed when the food stamp office closed down its office before noon yesterday, telling clients to return on Monday for their food stamps.

Staff at the Division of Nutrition Assistance Program said they are just following an Office of the Governor directive.

They said Saipan was already under Condition No. 2 due to Typhoon Melor, which meant they have to close down government offices.

"We don't want to put the people at risk. So we have to follow orders from the top," said a staff, who preferred not to be identified.

NAP announced over the radio early yesterday morning that food stamp beneficiaries must get their stamps as part of preparations for the typhoon.

A large number of people started lining up as early as 8am yesterday at the As Lito office and most of them got their food stamps but NAP stopped the distribution process before noon.

About 50 people, including children and women, waited for one to two hours but were told to return on Monday.

"How can they do that to us? This is the time we need it. We need to have water. What will we do in case there is an outage?" asked a mother of six from Chalan Kanoa.

She said she understands NAP's decision based on the directive but she said they should have reconsidered since the weather was still not that threatening when they closed the office.

"Look at the sun. It's not even windy. This is the time they must provide us help," said a mother of four from Dandan, who came with a pregnant relative.

Others left the area in disappointment when they learned about the closure.

Public health advisory

Acting Public Health Secretary Pedro T. Untalan issued an advisory yesterday for high risk groups as Typhoon Melor was approaching Saipan.

Pregnant women who are experiencing early labor or those who are due before Dec. 1, 2009, were advised that storms have been known to make pregnant women give birth earlier than their expected due date.

DPH encouraged all women with a gestational age of 36 weeks and above to self-monitor and prepare for the possibility for early labor.

DPH told those experiencing early labor to go to the Commonwealth Health Center prior to the arrival of the storm.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Beneficiaries wait for the Nutrition Assistance Program office to open at noon yesterday so they could receive their food stamp in order to buy supplies as they prepare for Typhoon Melor.

CHC set aside an area for them. They can contact the CHC nurse area at 234-8950 but they must bring proper identification documents, a pillow, blanket, extra clothing and other essential supplies.

Individuals who are on medical equipment requiring electricity should report to CHC if they do not have a generator at home.

Individuals on prescription medications and in need of medical supplies should make sure their prescription medications and medical supplies can last for at least three days, especially those with diabetes and chronic asthma.

DPH decided to close the dispensaries and outpatient clinics yesterday due to the storm.

The dialysis unit is closed today. Patients are asked to contact 236-8303/04.

For more information, call DPH at 234-8950.

Mangabao heirs awarded $11.4M for govt land taking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has found the CNMI government liable to pay $11.4 million to the heirs of Maria Mangabao for the taking of their land in Chalan Kiya in 1993.

In a decision issued Thursday, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said the appropriate prejudgment interest rate to compensate the Mangabao heirs for the government taking of three lots is at 6.991 percent.

Naraja also used the formula in the court ruling in the case of Rogolifoi heirs in getting $11,431,662.10 as final award amount to be awarded to the Mangabao heirs.

The government and other parties in the case have stipulated to a land taking of March 31, 1993 and a judgment of $4,196,524.

"Since the heirs of Rogolifoi present a prejudgment interest rate that was calculated methodically by a superiorly qualified expert witness for a land taking only one year from the land taking in this case, this court will adopt the 6.991 prejudgment interest rate here," Naraja said.

The judge further determined that the decision in the Rogolifoi case provides him with how that prejudgment interest rate was calculated and a mathematical formula to calculate the future value of a lump sum of money, applicable in all land taking cases.

Court records show that in January 2008, Naraja had determined that the date of the taking of the property was March 31, 1993. The judge also determined that the value of the property taken on that date was $4,196,524.

On July 28, 2008, Naraja heard arguments regarding the remaining issue in the case—appropriate prejudgment interest rate. Eric Smith served as counsel for the Mangabao heirs. Assistant attorney general Alan J. Barak appeared for the government. Michael Dotts represented 12 intervenors.

During the evidentiary hearing on April 3 and 4, 2008, the government presented Mitchell K. Aaron, a certified real estate appraiser, as an expert witness on prejudgment interest.

The intervenors in the case presented a certified public accountant, Rufo T. Mafnas, as an expert witness.

Aaron testified that 126 land claimants settled for 3 percent compound interest payments in the CNMI over the last 20 years.

Aaron determined that as a result of the 126 prior land cases and the falling land value in the CNMI, the proper prejudgment interest rate should remain at 3 percent compound interest.

Mafnas on the other hand, said that based on his research and data, a prudent person investing to preserve principal and produce a return on investment could have achieved a 9 percent return on an investment made between March 1993 and April 2008.

In his decision, Naraja said that, as stated in the Superior Court ruling in the Rogolifoi heirs' case, the court will not penalize the Mangabao heirs simply because 126 landowners took a bad settlement offer.

Naraja said as stated in the Rogolifoi heirs' case, although land values have fallen, prompt payment for the land taking would have allowed the Mangabao heirs to strategically invest the money they were awarded, investments which would have not been affected by the falling land values.

Naraja found neither Aaron's nor Mafnas' testimony completely convincing on the issue of prejudgment interest rate.

"The expert witness in heirs of Rogolifoi, whose qualifications as to financial investing greatly outweigh those of Mafnas, determined that appropriate interest rate for a government land taking in 1992 should be 6.991 percent," the judge pointed out.

8-percent drop in vehicle sales in September

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a 40 percent increase in vehicle sales in August, automotive dealers reported an 8-percent drop in sales in September, mostly because they were out of stock of leading makes and models.

The three-member Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association said yesterday it sold only 43 new cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles in September, four units fewer than the 47 sold during the same month last year.

Randy Steele, general manager of Triple J Motors, said Triple J had a large drop in new car sales from August to September "as a result of being out of stock of most best-selling models due to our high sales in August, which were double our forecast."

"We have shipments arriving in October that will replenish our inventory," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

After seeing a dramatic 170-percent increase in sales in August, Triple J posted a 50-percent drop in new vehicle sales in September.

CADA figures show that Triple J sold only three new units in September, compared to six last year.

Joeten Motors, meanwhile, sold 22 new vehicles in September, marking a 5-percent increase compared to the same month last year.

Microl Corp. saw a 10-percent decrease in sales, from 20 in September 2008 to 18 last month.

Year-to-date sales also posted a 33-percent drop. CADA sold only 335 new vehicles between January and September, compared to 500 last year.

Joeten Motors, Microl Corp. and Triple J also sold 306 used or secondhand vehicles during the first nine months of the year.

Cars were the vehicle of choice in September with 28 units sold, followed by SUVS with nine units, trucks with four units, and vans, two.

Honda Civic topped the sales chart compared to other makes and models with eight units sold. This was followed by Toyota Yaris with six units, and Toyota Corolla with five units sold.

Four new units each of Nissan Altima, Mazda5, and GM Vans were also sold in September.

CADA also sold three units each of Toyota Camry and Nissan Rogue during the period under review.

Two units each of Ford Ranger, Ford E-Van, Honda CR-V, and Toyota RAV4 were sold.

The dealers also sold one unit each of Honda Accord, Mazda3, Mazda Pick-Up, Toyota Tacoma, Hyundai Tucson, and Toyota Highlander.

October
is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

If you are a woman over 40 years old you may be able to get a MAMMOGRAM at no cost to you!

For the month of October, the Breast and Cervical Screening Program (BCSP) will have the **Mammogram Call-Ins** activity.

2 steps to getting your mammogram:
Step 1. Get a Clinical Breast Exam done (CBE)
Step 2. Call the **BCSP** office at **236-8731/27** to get a mammogram appointment.

"The key to mammography is that you get it regularly – once is not enough."

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MELOR

From Page 1

At 6:30pm last night, most stores on Saipan were filled with people buying emergency items and food, while Mobil and Shell stations had lines of vehicles filling up gas tanks. Many families have also begun checking in at hotels.

The government opened six designated shelters on Saipan and one on Tinian at 3pm. After an hour, some families began arriving at five of the designated shelters on Saipan.

Three Federal Emergency Management Office staff arrived on Saipan Wednesday night and joined emergency responders at the Emergency Management Office yesterday.

As of 5:30pm, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial maintained Typhoon Condition II for Saipan and Tinian, and Typhoon Condition III for Rota and Agrihan. The governor also advised all business establishments to shut down operations by 9:30pm.

As of 4pm, the center of Typhoon Melor was 320 miles east of Saipan, 330 miles east of Tinian, 355 miles east of Rota, 390 miles east of Guam, and 435 miles southeast of Agrihan.

Packing maximum sustained winds at 140 miles per hour, Melor continued to intensify as it moved west-northwest at 7mph.

The National Weather Service predicts Melor to become a super typhoon in the next 24 hours. A typhoon becomes a super typhoon when its maximum sustained winds reach 150 mph or more.

NWS said the typhoon force winds extend outward up to 70 miles from the center, while tropical storm winds extend outward up to 240 miles from the center.

NWS predicts the onset of damaging winds in the Northern Marianas Friday night.

"Typhoon force winds and heavy rains will cause widespread damage. Winds are expected to approach 100 mph on Saipan, which will destroy wood and tin shelters, damage doors and windows of concrete buildings," NWS said.

NWS also advised people staying in tin-roof houses to leave for more substantial shelter.

"Boat owners should secure their craft. Stay informed and listen for possible changes to the forecast," the agency said.

Considerable flooding is expected in western villages as overflow from Lake Susupe combines with the storm surge.

Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan said the designated shelters on Saipan are Tanapag Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Marianas High School, Koblerville Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, and Kagman High School.

If Kagman Community Center is full, Cha Cha Junior High School will be on standby to accommodate other evacuees.

Pangelinan said Ada Gym and Kagman Community Center will also serve as long-term shelters for evacuees after the typhoon.

On Tinian, the Tinian Elementary School is the designated shelter.

Pangelinan said PSS already dispatched all their shelter managers to the evacuation centers.

He said the three FEMA staff are here to support the CNMI's need for resources like manpower, equipment, and logistics.

"They [FEMA] are experts on that," Pangelinan said.

The Public School System reported that some families began trooping to the shelters at Dandan Elementary School, Koberville Elementary School, Marianas High School, Tanapag Elementary School, and Garapan Elementary School as early as 4pm.

Courts shut down due to typhoon threat

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja shut down yesterday the operations of the Superior Court offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota effective 12pm due to the threat of Typhoon Melor.

Naraja ordered that all required documents due to be filed yesterday, and all subsequent closure date(s), shall be filed no later than the close of business on the next business day that the respective courthouses resume operations.

The judge said posting of fees or fines due yesterday, and all subsequent closure date(s), shall be due no later than the close of business on the next business day that the courthouses resume operations.

Naraja said all matters scheduled for hearing yesterday afternoon and all subsequent date(s) that coincide with Typhoon Melor-related closures, are continued to a later date.

He said the assigned judge will determine the schedule of the continuation hearing.

The Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the NMI also closed yesterday starting at 12pm. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

At noon, the federal and local courts shut down operations and the employees were sent home. After lunch, people were seen boarding up windows and walls of houses, apartments, stores, and offices.

On Tinian, most residents also boarded up their windows and doors. Cars mainly kept off the roads in an effort to conserve gas.

Danielle McGill, 24, a teacher and new resident on Tinian, said: "I am kind of excited, but a little nervous. It's seems scary. To prepare, I got a lot of food, water, and games. I took some clothes and am staying with friends. I am definitely feeling a mix between excited and anxious. I have no idea what to expect."

Abul, 36, a nonresident worker, said he is very worried about his house "because the strong winds may damage it. I am praying."

"I feel like I did everything I could to prepare, and I am more worried about my neighbors than myself," said lawyer Janet King. "I invited them to come stay with me when the worst hits. We are all vulnerable, and should help each other out in times like these."

The weather was sunny since morning, but at 4pm it drizzled in most parts of Saipan.

Government and private sector employees were sent home after lunch, and most dropped by grocery stores to stock up.

At Joeten Store in Susupe, emergency items such as candles, flashlights, batteries, lighters, lights were in high demand.

Ikjin Yoon, general manager of San Jose Mart, said their store began filling up with customers at 12pm, buying food, butane gas, candles, batteries, and other emergency items.

"There's plenty [of] customers. We're very busy. We're going to open the store 24-hours," Yoon said.

Liberty Rabauliman, a PSS employee, was among the many customers at San Jose Mart. She said she was buying noodles, matches, lighters, butane gas, cell phone cards, food, and grocery items.

Rabauliman said she and her three children will join co-employees and check in at a hotel because she wants to ensure her family's safety.

People began filling up their tanks with gas yesterday morning, but long lines of car were still seen at gas stations from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. Mobil said they would close at 10pm.

Oliver Ermitanio, cashier at Mobil Chalan Kiya station, said there were a lot of customers since morning, but the long lines began at 2:30pm.

"This is my first time to experience a strong typhoon on Saipan so I'm buying a full tank of gas," said Flor Colindon, 40, a dental assistant who was among the customers at Mobil Chalan Kiya.

Political parties also removed big campaign billboards along Beach Road, Middle Road, and other roads on the island. Owners of small boats were also spotted securing their boats at Smiling Cove Marina.

Don't forget animals during a typhoon

Typhoon Melor is predicted to be a big storm with gusts of wind as high 180 miles per hour, according to some reports.

While you are preparing your homes and loved ones for the storm, do not forget your animals.

We suggest you take the following steps to protect your animal(s) from harm and/or death:

OUTSIDE ANIMALS:

■ Consider bringing outside dogs and cats inside for the storm. Designate a room for the outside critters so the mess can be contained and easily cleaned.

■ To prevent bringing ticks and fleas inside the house, treat your animals to a single dose of Frontline or Pro Meris. Both of these products kill fleas and ticks for up to four weeks with a single, non-messy application between the shoulder blades.

■ Frontline can be purchased at Brabu Pharmacy on Middle Road. Pro Meris can be purchased at Paradise Island Animal Hospital on Middle Road.

CUC

From Page 1

cover the northern and northeast parts of Saipan.

Feeder 4 includes portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman, and portion of Papago, while Feeder 7 includes the Lower Base industrial area north of Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi.

"The feeders likely to suffer the most would be Feeder 4 and Feeder 7, although if the winds exceed 140 mph, it wouldn't make much difference; the entire island would suffer equally," he said.

He said CUC will strive to continue providing power during the typhoon but if the feeders keep tripping because of high winds, CUC will have no choice but to shut down the power plant.

Malae said he and CUC executive director Tony Muna will be on standby today, including about 60 field and 20 support staff.

As it usually does during typhoons and big storms, CUC was busy yesterday battening down the hatches. At the power plants, CUC personnel were tying down items that could be blown away, especially oil containers that may contaminate bodies of water.

"We will all go through safety and response protocols for all services," Malae said.

Emergency hotlines are also on standby to receive calls and dispatch team to address residents' concerns.

Malae said CUC will also review inventory and identify staging areas.

It will make sure it fills water and oil tanks sufficiently to prevent toppling during high winds and fuel all equipment, including readying the standby and portable generators.

Malae said the agency will also arrange for the delivery of food and supplies to the field crew during the recovery operations.

In case CUC runs short of supplies and equipment, it will submit list of possible emergency needs to any outside agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Malae assures that CUC will constantly update the public about the progress of its work.

CUC fielded a total of 150 calls during and after the typhoon last month, with almost half of the callers seeking assistance for the restoration of power in their homes. Some callers reported seeing sparks on power lines.

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

ministrative Services Peter Le'au told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that some families have actually began moving to the designated shelters, which include Marianas High School, Tanapag Elementary, Garapan, Dandan, Koblerville, Kagman High, and Tinian High School

He said the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School is also on standby in case designated shelters in Kagman reach their maximum capacity.

PSS has revived its emergency task force that will monitor the situation in schools, in coordination with the Emergency Management Office.

Bus Department team leader Steven M. Pangelinan said that as early as 3pm yesterday, PSS has dispatched three 66-seat capacity school buses and three 9-passenger vans that will be used in transporting evacuees.

Pangelinan said one mini-bus for wheelchair bound passengers will also be deployed.

"In case we see a great need for more vehicles during the typhoon, we will use two more big buses, which are on standby at our Lower Base station," Pangelinan said, adding that four additional drivers are also on standby until the island is declared typhoon-free.

"We will be open all day and night until it is declared condition 1 and we will automatically stop the service," Pangelinan said.

He said the buses had already begun transporting evacuees as early as noon yesterday.

Le'au confirmed that some families are already in the designated shelters as soon as PSS opened them at 3pm yesterday.

Due to the typhoon alert, PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan cut short yesterday the scheduled whole-day statewide professional development seminar for PSS employees.

Over a thousand classroom teachers, teacher aides, and support staff gathered at Marianas High School gymnasium for the event.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's declaration of Typhoon Alert II forced Sablan to call off the sessions at noon yesterday.

Le'au said PSS will reschedule the training events.

He added that PSS will issue an advisory if classes need to be suspended on Monday.

FLIGHTS

From Page 1

three islands as of 2pm yesterday, according to executive director Efrain F. Camacho.

However, once a higher typhoon condition alert is issued, the agency will automatically shut down all airports; only critical departments will be on standby.

Asiana Airlines regional manager Heung Sik Choi confirmed yesterday the cancellation of its daytime flight from Incheon, Korea, which is slated to arrive at 2:30am Saturday. The affected flight is A321, which has 178 seats.

Sik Choi said that four flights arrived and departed as scheduled yesterday—one from Incheon and one from Kansai, Japan. The last Asiana flight yesterday was a 4pm departure to Kansai.

Airline cargo agents also confirmed receiving cancellation notices from Northwest Airlines yesterday.

NW100, which was set to fly to Saipan at 1am today, was cancelled. It has over 200-seat capacity.

Continental Airlines flights were not affected yesterday.

In a statement, it said the company continues to monitor the typhoon's path and will adjust its operational plans for today if necessary. It encourages passengers planning a trip today to check its Web site for the latest flight information.

'24-hour service'

According to Saipan airport manager Ed Mendiola, besides securing the airport's facilities to ensure minimal damage from the expected super typhoon, airport personnel are also ready to assist when needed. He said employees from the ports police, maintenance, fire department, and operations divisions will be on 24-hour standby.

Two main backup generators for the entire terminal building and airport are also ready to ensure continuous power at the airport.

The airport manager said they are also expecting domestic flights to be cancelled today.

Freedom Air flies twice daily to Rota while Cape Air flies four to five times daily to and from Guam.

Matson cuts fuel surcharge to 25.5 percent

Matson Navigation Co. said Thursday it is slashing its fuel surcharge by 4 percentage points from 29.5 percent to 25.5 percent starting Sunday, for service between the U.S. mainland and Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as to Micronesia.

Matson is also lowering its fuel surcharge for its Hawaii-mainland service from 28 percent to 24 percent due to recent declines in fuel prices.

For most customers, the decreases will represent savings in shipping costs ranging from $100 to $150 per container.

The decreases follow three straight increases, the latest of which was an 8 percentage-point increase on July 5.

"While we were able to make six consecutive decreases in 2008, the trend moved back upward in 2009," said Dave Hoppes, Matson senior vice president of ocean services. "Matson has made a practice of giving 30 days' notice of rate adjustments; however, we are once again passing on this decrease to our customers as soon as possible so that they can quickly realize the benefits of this reduction during this difficult economic environment."

Horizon Lines, the state's second largest ocean shipper, typically matches Matson but was unavailable for comment. In August, Horizon announced it was increasing its Hawaii-mainland fuel surcharge 5 percentage points to 33 percent, effective Sept. 27, but Horizon later rescinded the planned increase and remained at 28 percent after Matson failed to match.

Matson and Horizon fuel surcharges for Hawaii-mainland service peaked at 42.25 percent on Aug. 31, 2008, before declining six consecutive times and reaching 15 percent on Nov. 30, 2008.

The surcharges then rose three straight times before Matson broke the streak with Thursday's announcement. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Kilili wants territories included in tourism legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and his counterparts from Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have written to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and to Chairman Henry Waxman and Ranking Member Joe Barton of the Energy and Commerce Committee asking that language including the U.S. territories be included in S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act of 2009.

The Senate legislation establishes a non-profit Corporation for Travel Promotion in the U.S. Department of Commerce to encourage international travel to the U.S. States and the District of Columbia. The legislation also sets a $10 fee for international travelers entering the U.S., including the territories.

"The problem with this legislation," says Sablan, "is that the territories put money into the program, but don't get anything in return.

"If international travelers visiting the CNMI are required to pay a $10 fee to fund the corporation, then the mission of the corporation should be to encourage travel to all parts of the U.S.—including the CNMI and other U.S. territories."

The issue was brought to the attention of Sablan by the Marianas Visitors Authority. Sablan then drafted the letter for the benefit of the territorial delegation.

"One of the strengths the U.S. territories have in Congress is their good working relationship," according to Sablan. "If any of us spots an issue of concern, we let each other know and work together to solve it."

In addition to the funding issue, the letter also requests that a representative from the territories be a board member of the proposed corporation.

"Tourism is the foundation of our economies, especially international travelers, and we need to ensure the territories have a voice in promoting international tourism to the United States," said Sablan. "This could be a good bill – if it helps us build our tourism trade." ***(PR)***

...and wants Pacific islanders to be included in new USCG internships

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) wants to be sure that Asian-American and Pacific Islander students are eligible to participate in a new Coast Guard internship program now under consideration in Congress.

In a letter yesterday to Rep. James L. Oberstar, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Sablan called the program "an exciting opportunity for students at minority-serving institutions."

But, Sablan pointed out, colleges serving Asian-American and Pacific Islanders are not included in the definition of "minority-serving institutions."

The new program is part of the Coast Guard Authorization Act, H.R. 3619 and allows students from minority-serving institutions to intern with the Coast Guard.

"I think this will be a wonderful program, and I look forward to seeing it modified so that students from the NMI can participate, whether they attend a local school like Northern Marianas College, or another minority-serving institution further away from home," Sablan said.

H.R. 3619 has been reported by Oberstar's committee, but has not yet been taken to the full House for debate.

"I'm confident that it will be easy to remedy when the final bill comes to the floor," Sablan said in his letter.

Minority-serving institutions are defined in the United States code as those in which students from a particular group made up at least 10 percent of the student body. Because many of these minorities are historically disadvantaged, MSIs are entitled to additional federal government aid and are often the target of special opportunities like the Coast Guard internship. ***(PR)***

'TANTALIZING AND TROUBLING VISIONS'

NMI Museum to host Spennemann photo exhibit

The NMI Museum of History and Culture will be opening an exhibition of photographic works by the preeminent historian of the German administrative period of the Marianas on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009.

Dirk Spennemann, a professor in Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage Studies with the Institute of Land, Water and Society at Charles Sturt University Australia, has published several books on the CNMI.

Spennemann is also an accomplished photographic artist, who in his recent work aspires to interpret cultural elements through the visual arts. He has had several solo exhibitions in Australia, one of which is currently touring. Additional exhibitions are scheduled for 2010 in both Australia and Alaska.

The exhibition, titled "Tantalizing and Troubling Visions", features people and places in today's CNMI. All images were taken within a one-week time frame in September 2009, representing a snapshot in time.

"Creative visions are meant to be selective, gently challenging the perceptions of the audience, collecting the familiar with the unfamiliar, and juxtaposing the expected with the unexpected," Spennemann explained.

The acronym of the exhibition is also a word play on the photographic technique used by the artist: through-the-viewfinder photography. Using a modern Nikon digital camera with a powerful macro lens, Spennemann photographs the image produced by the viewfinder of a vintage camera, a French Olbia Eikon made in 1946. The biconvex glass of the viewfinder allows for selective focus drop-off that cannot be emulated with standard cameras or by digital manipulation. Digital darkroom techniques are then used to post-process the captured images.

The images have a gritty feel to them, transcending reality with their treatment. One the one hand, creating a realism that is confronting, on the other hand creating an artistic, and comforting, distance to the reality as seen by most.

As the first decade of the 21st century soon draws to a close, the CNMI plays many roles: a bastion of Chamorro and Carolinian pride; a tourist destination for holidaymakers from Japan, China and Korea; a gateway between Asia and Micronesia; a heaven of aspirations of many seeking a stepping stone to the mainland USA; and America's westernmost outpost in the Pacific.

Not surprisingly, 21st century CNMI is a complex community. The land is firmly in the hands of the traditional owners of the islands. Both Chamorros and Carolinians maintain a strong identity and cultural self-respect. Yet the streetscapes, stores and public places reflect a multi-cultural community with Bangladeshi, Chinese, Chuukese, European, Korean, Palauan, Filipino and Russian elements intermingling.

The CNMI Museum is excited to hold "Tantalizing and Troubling Visions", the first exhibition of this kind. The public is invited and encouraged to visit the exhibit, which will be open from Wednesday, Oct. 6, through Dec. 18, 2009. The public is invited to the opening of "Tantalizing and Troubling Visions", on Wednesday at 6pm. Spennemann will be on hand to talk about the exhibited work. Entrance to the museum will be free for the opening reception.

The museum is open Mondays through Fridays, 9am to 4:30pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12pm. Entrance is $1 for residents. ***(PR)***

Continental to move Tokyo flights to new wing at Narita

Continental Airlines and United Airlines said yesterday that Continental will move its Tokyo operations to the South Wing of Terminal 1 at Narita International Airport, effective Nov. 1, with Continental flights departing and arriving at the terminal's south gates and the check-in counter relocating to the South Wing main lobby.

The relocation will enable customers to connect seamlessly at Narita between Continental's five daily transpacific and Micronesia flights and United's 11 daily transpacific and intra-Asia flights departing from Tokyo.

In addition, when Continental joins Star Alliance at the end of October, the relocation will facilitate connections with ANA and other Star Alliance member airlines, including Air China, Asiana Airlines, Singapore Airlines and THAI, all of which operate from the South Wing of Terminal 1. Star Alliance airlines offer a total of 77 daily departures from Narita.

Continental customers in Tokyo will receive the same airport services currently offered for all of Continental's long-haul international flights including designated OnePass Elite and BusinessFirst check-in and priority baggage handling and BusinessFirst concierge service.

Continental Presidents Club members and BusinessFirst customers will have access to United's Red Carpet Club located in Airside Satellite 3, as well as to two lounges operated by ANA.

"This move will occur right after we join Star Alliance and will give our customers better connections to more destinations throughout Asia with United and other Star Alliance member airlines," said Mark Erwin, Continental's senior vice president of corporate development and alliances.

"Continental's move to the South Wing of Terminal 1 at Narita will give United's customers in Asia additional options for travel throughout Asia and Micronesia, and more convenient service to New York, Houston, the southern U.S. and Latin America," said Mark Schwab, United's senior vice president of alliances, international and regulatory affairs.

Continental's move in Tokyo follows a similar aligning of customer service and ground operations at Beijing International Airport and Shanghai's Pudong International Airport. ***(Continental)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 237

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Defusing Iran

Preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons is a bit like achieving peace between the Israelis and Palestinians—the steps we need to take are fairly obvious, but actually getting them done is all but impossible.

The United Nations has imposed three rounds of weak sanctions against Iran, all of them watered down by Russia and China, Tehran's allies on the Security Council. Thursday, those two countries, along with the United States, Britain, France and Germany, will meet with Iranian representatives in Geneva to try to discourage Tehran's nuclear ambitions. A positive outcome is unlikely.

Most responsible nations have recognized for decades that a two-state solution has the best chance to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but in a feud in which reason is often secondary to faith, neither side is seriously pursuing it. By the same token, both Russia and China surely know that a nuclear-armed Iran is not in their interest, and that strong sanctions such as a ban on Iranian oil exports or refined gasoline imports could force Iran to the bargaining table. Yet such sanctions would also wreak significant economic harm on Russia and China. Moreover, a hostile Iran could arm Muslim separatists and foment unrest, especially in and near Russia.

Faced with the reality that diplomacy has borne little fruit so far, and that bombing Iran's nuclear sites would inflame the Middle East while probably only slowing Tehran's nuclear quest, pundits across the political spectrum are giving bad advice to President Obama. On the right, critics attack the president's attempts to negotiate directly with the regime and urge him to talk tougher, yet few reveal what that's supposed to accomplish. Eight years of that strategy under President George W. Bush not only failed to resolve the nuclear crisis but strengthened President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose defiance of Bush was wildly popular at home. On the left, Obama has been accused of not being accommodating enough, with some urging the president to offer Tehran various incentives with no strings attached, as President Nixon did when he opened diplomatic relations with China in the 1970s. This ignores the nature of Iran's revolutionary regime, which defines itself by its opposition to the U.S.; there's little reason to think appeasement would change that, or end its desire to be a member of the world's nuclear club.

We still think diplomacy can succeed, and that carrots and sticks, applied in the right balance to the right countries and combined with a resurgent Iranian opposition movement, can head off the prospect of a nuclear-armed Tehran. But in case they don't, the world needs a contingency plan for containing the atomic mullahs.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

CEASE and DESIST, OR THERE'S MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM!!
Sanctions
UN
IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM (FOR ENERGY* PURPOSES ONLY) *WE PROMISE
KEEP OUT! THIS MEANS YOU!

Leave the Medal of Honor alone

By ED HOOPER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

On Sept. 17 President Obama presented the Medal of Honor to the parents of Army Staff Sgt. Jared Monti for "conspicuous gallantry." Monti, 30, was serving with the 10th Mountain Division when he was killed June 21, 2006, in a battle at Gowardesh, Afghanistan.

This was the sixth occasion since Sept. 11, 2001, that the nation's highest military award has been bestowed. Unfortunately, some are pushing for this decoration to be awarded more generously because they believe the number of recipients is too low.

More than a dozen groups and lawmakers are lobbying the Defense Department to award this honor more frequently—in effect, to lower its standards—and to upgrade to the Medal of Honor other decorations that soldiers have received. In debate over the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, the Pentagon was criticized for setting decoration standards too high. The "low numbers" led Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., to insert a conference report in the authorization act "to review the current trends in awarding the Medal of Honor to identify whether there is an inadvertent subjective bias amongst commanders that has contributed to the low numbers of awards of the Medal of Honor." It directs Defense Secretary Robert Gates to report back to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees next March.

The Defense Department's definition of "hero" has stood the test of time. And the standards for this nation's highest military award are appropriately strict.

The Defense Department's definition of "hero" has stood the test of time. And the standards for this nation's highest military award are appropriately strict.

The Medal of Honor is the least-understood U.S. military decoration. In 1916, a committee under the leadership of a medal recipient, Gen. Nelson Miles, reviewed each instance of award, set up investigative standards and rules, and strengthened the requirements (including specifying that recipients must be actively enrolled in U.S. armed forces at the time of their act of bravery). The "Purge of 1917" stripped 911 Medals of Honor from those not deemed worthy of having received them; the most well known of these are 864 awarded during the Civil War to the soldiers of the 27th Maine, who received the medal simply for reenlisting. Sadly, amid political pressure, some of the medals taken away were later returned.

The Medal of Honor is presented ceremoniously by the president of the United States in the name of Congress, but the Defense Department chooses the candidates. The department has historically based its decisions on soldiers' actions and merit. Most of those calling for the medal to be bestowed more frequently couldn't name any of the 95 recipients who are still living or the remarkable actions that led to their awards.

The Medal of Honor is a combat decoration not limited to a past battle or present circumstances; it is also about how succeeding generations will view the individuals on whom it was bestowed and why. Most Medals of Honor have been posthumously awarded, and the citations justifying its presentation are Homeric stories of bravery that centuries from now are likely to stand unrivaled beside the stories of great warriors and citizen-soldiers throughout history.

The uniformed men and women of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy will tell you that the Medal of Honor is a warrior's award and that it is their decoration to present only to those whom they regard as fit to wear it. Politicians, pundits and civilian organizations—however well-meaning—should have little say in who receives it.

Nor is our Defense Department unique in bestowing its highest combat decoration sparingly. More than 50,000 British troops have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 360 have been killed in combat. The British Secretary of State for Defence, however, has awarded only two of that nation's highest decoration, the Victoria Cross, for actions under fire. The United States has fielded three times as many troops and awarded three times the number of our highest decoration since Sept. 11, 2001.

Yet this honor is not about quotas or statistics; nor does the number of presentations reflect on the modern soldier's valiant service on the battlefield. The Bronze Star, the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross are prestigious decorations of valor, not to be taken lightly or dismissed.

The strict standards for the Medal of Honor are meant to keep it credible. It is wrong to pressure the Defense Department to lower its standards of individual courage, nobility and self-sacrifice on a battlefield. The department should make its own decisions on this award so Americans will know that when it lauds someone as a "hero," we should all take notice.

Hooper is an author and journalist from Knoxville, Tenn., who has reported on military affairs and assembled educational programs on the Medal of Honor. A version of this column was distributed by History News Service.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

After the Pax Americana

By CHRISTOPHER LAYNE and BENJAMIN SCHWARZ
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The international order that emerged after World War II has rightly been termed the Pax Americana; it's a Washington-led arrangement that has maintained political stability and promoted an open global economic system. Today, however, the Pax Americana is withering, thanks to what the National Intelligence Council in a recent report described as a "global shift in relative wealth and economic power without precedent in modern history"—a shift that has accelerated enormously as a result of the economic crisis of 2007-09.

At the heart of this geopolitical sea change is China's robust economic growth. Not because Beijing will necessarily threaten American interests but because a newly powerful China by necessity means a relative decline in American power, the very foundation of the postwar international order. These developments remind us that changes in the global balance of power can be sudden and discontinuous rather than gradual and evolutionary.

The Great Recession isn't the cause of Washington's ebbing relative power. But it has quickened trends that already had been eating away at the edifice of U.S. economic supremacy. Looking ahead, the health of the U.S. economy is threatened by a gathering fiscal storm: exploding federal deficits that could ignite runaway inflation and undermine the dollar. To avoid these perils, the U.S. will face wrenching choices.

The Obama administration and the Federal Reserve have adopted policies that have dramatically increased both the supply of dollars circulating in the U.S. economy and the federal budget deficit, which both the Brookings Institution and the Congressional Budget Office estimate will exceed $1 trillion every year for at least the next decade. In the short run, these policies were no doubt necessary; nevertheless, in the long term, they will almost certainly boomerang. Add that to the persistent U.S. current account deficit, the enormous unfunded liabilities for entitlement programs and the cost of two ongoing wars, and you can see that America's long-term fiscal stability is in jeopardy. As the CBO says: "Even if the recovery occurs as projected and stimulus bill is allowed to expire, the country will face the highest debt/GDP ratio in 50 years and an increasingly unsustainable and urgent fiscal problem." This spells trouble ahead for the dollar.

The financial privileges conferred on the U.S. by the dollar's unchallenged reserve currency status—its role as the primary form of payment for international trade and financial transactions—have underpinned the pre-eminent geopolitical role of the United States in international politics since the end of World War II. But already the shadow of the coming fiscal crisis has prompted its main creditors, China and Japan, to worry that in coming years the dollar will depreciate in value. China has been calling for the dollar's replacement by a new reserve currency. And Yukio Hatoyama, Japan's new prime minister, favors Asian economic integration and a single Asian currency as substitutes for eroding U.S. financial and economic power.

Going forward, to defend the dollar, Washington will need to control inflation through some combination of budget cuts, tax increases and interest rate hikes. Given that the last two options would choke off renewed growth, the least unpalatable choice is to reduce federal spending. This will mean radically scaling back defense expenditures, because discretionary non-defense spending accounts for only about 20 percent of annual federal outlays. This in turn will mean a radical diminution of America's overseas military commitments, transforming both geopolitics and the international economy.

Since 1945, the Pax Americana has made international economic interdependence and globalization possible. Whereas all states benefit absolutely in an open international economy, some states benefit more than others. In the normal course of world politics, the relative distribution of power, not the pursuit of absolute economic gains, is a country's principal concern, and this discourages economic interdependence. In their efforts to ensure a distribution of power in their favor and at the expense of their actual or potential rivals, states pursue autarkic policies—those designed to maximize national self-sufficiency—practicing capitalism only within their borders or among countries in a trading bloc.

The Great Recession isn't the cause of Washington's ebbing relative power. But it has quickened trends that already had been eating away at the edifice of U.S. economic supremacy. Looking ahead, the health of the U.S. economy is threatened by a gathering fiscal storm: exploding federal deficits that could ignite runaway inflation and undermine the dollar. To avoid these perils, the U.S. will face wrenching choices.

Thus a truly global economy is extraordinarily difficult to achieve. Historically, the only way to secure international integration and interdependence has been for a dominant power to guarantee the security of other states so that they need not pursue autarkic policies or form trading blocs to improve their relative positions. This suspension of international politics through hegemony has been the fundamental aim of U.S. foreign policy since the 1940s. The U.S. has assumed the responsibility for maintaining geopolitical stability in Europe, East Asia and the Persian Gulf, and for keeping open the lines of communication through which world trade moves. Since the Cold War's end, the U.S. has sought to preserve its hegemony by possessing a margin of military superiority so vast that it can keep any would-be great power pliant and protected.

Financially, the U.S. has been responsible for managing the global economy by acting as the market and lender of last resort. But as President Barack Obama acknowledged at the London G-20 meeting in April, the U.S. is no longer able to play this role, and the world increasingly is looking to China (and India and other emerging market states) to be the locomotives of global recovery.

Going forward, the fiscal crisis will mean that Washington cannot discharge its military functions as a hegemon either, because it can no longer maintain the power edge that has allowed it to keep the ambitions of the emerging great powers in check. The entire fabric of world order that the United States established after 1945—the Pax Americana—rested on the foundation of U.S. military and economic preponderance. Remove the foundation, and the structure crumbles. The decline of American power means the end of U.S. dominance in world politics and the beginning of the transition to a new constellation of world powers.

The result will be profound changes in world politics. Emerging powers will seek to establish spheres of influence, control lines of communication, engage in arms races and compete for control over key natural resources. As America's decline results in the retraction of the U.S. military role in key regions, rivalries among emerging powers are bound to heat up. Already, China and India are competing for influence in Central and Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. Even today, when the United States is still acting as East Asia's regional pacifier, the smoldering security competition between China and Japan is pushing Japan cautiously to engage in the very kind of "re-nationalization" of its security policy that the U.S. regional presence is supposed to prevent. While still wedded to its alliance with the U.S., in recent years Japan has become increasingly anxious that, as a Rand Corp. study put it, eventually it "might face a threat against which the United States would not prove a reliable ally." Consequently, Japan is moving toward dropping Article 9 of its American-imposed Constitution (which imposes severe constraints on Japan's military), building up its forces and quietly pondering the possibility of becoming a nuclear power.

Although the weakening of the Pax Americana will not cause international trade and capital flows to come to a grinding halt, in coming years we can expect states to adopt openly competitive economic policies as they are forced to jockey for power and advantage in an increasingly competitive security and economic environment. The world economy will thereby more closely resemble that of the 1930s than the free-trade system of the post-1945 Pax Americana. The coming end of the Pax Americana heralds a crisis for capitalism.

The coming era of de-globalization will be defined by rising nationalism and mercantilism, geopolitical instability and great power competition. In other words, having enjoyed a long holiday from history under the Pax Americana, international politics will be headed back to the future.

Layne is a professor of government at Texas A&M University and a consultant to the National Intelligence Council; Schwarz is literary and national editor of the Atlantic.

Obama's tough choices

By TIM RUTTEN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's easy to see why President Barack Obama is so eager to fly off to Copenhagen to boost Chicago's chances for securing the 2016 Olympic Games. After all, if there's one thing at which he already has shown himself to be a master, it's selling.

The country, however, doesn't need a pitchman in chief—Billy Mays in a bully pulpit. Eventually, selling is not enough, and it comes time to deliver. The stuttering success of the stimulus package has won the president some economic breathing room, but the administration needs to do something about job creation in the very near future; a recovery that pushes up stock prices and Wall Street bonuses but leaves more than 1 in 10 Americans out of work is no recovery at all.

Similarly, on health care, Obama can let the legislative process unwind a bit further, but pretty soon he'll need to acknowledge that a bill that compels everyone to buy health insurance without simultaneously creating a public option to act as a ceiling on prices isn't reform—it's a windfall for insurance companies.

When it comes to the two most urgent foreign-policy issues—Iran's nuclear ambitions and the war in Afghanistan—the president has even less leeway. The problem is that, in both cases, all the choices are bad, and a day of glad-handing, gravlax and cold Aquavit won't change that.

There is no getting away from the Iranian crisis, on which negotiations begin this week. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was right when—in an unfairly neglected speech to the U.N. General Assembly last week—he argued: "The most urgent challenge facing this body is to prevent the tyrants of Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons."

The situation, however, is complicated. As The New York Times reported, Western intelligence agencies are deeply divided on the state of Iran's nuclear program. The CIA believes, based on electronic intercepts and penetration of Tehran's computer network, that no weapons design has gone on since 2003. The Israelis believe the program has resumed; the Germans that it never stopped; the French that progress toward a bomb is more advanced than generally acknowledged.

Discovery of a heretofore secret Iranian nuclear facility, made public last week, suggests that Tehran's weapons program might be much more widely dispersed than previously thought. Whatever the case, it's also clear that the irrational and deceitful theocrats in charge in Iran will not willingly surrender their nuclear ambitions. Perhaps the stringent economic sanctions being talked about will force them into it, but—like its missiles—Iran's nuclear program is under the control of the radical Revolutionary Guard, which in recent years has emerged as a powerful economic force along the lines of China's People's Liberation Army. It has its own businesses, factories and ports, all sorts of import-export enterprises and even control of the country's telephone and Internet services. It might be able to weather sanctions that will make life a misery for the rest of the country.

There's no clearer case, however, for a military solution—whether executed by the U.S. or Israel. Unless we are willing to commit troops, which is unthinkable, even severe airstrikes would only delay a program whose components appear carefully dispersed. Moreover, they almost certainly would unleash a wave of Iranian-supported terrorism, and no sane planner can discount Tehran's ability to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which the Persian Gulf's oil flows.

No good choices.

Afghanistan presents another murky problem. Our military commanders are right that a new strategy based on proven counterinsurgency tactics is the only way forward—and that such a strategy will require vastly more troops on the ground. But Afghanistan is the graveyard of great powers' well-conceived strategies, a nation so dysfunctional that it can't quite fall completely apart or coalesce around a working government. In other words, it's one of the worst places for the sort of nation building that is counterinsurgency's logical end point.

The president also was right, however, when he called Iraq "a war of choice" and Afghanistan "a war of necessity." But what made the latter struggle necessary was not the presence of the Taliban but the Taliban's creation of sanctuaries from which al-Qaida struck at the United States. If it were possible to disengage from Afghanistan without allowing Osama bin Laden and his followers to re-establish havens there, it would be a tragic choice for the Afghan people but a wise one for Americans.

Again, no good choices.

To gloss John Kenneth Galbraith's famous remark, foreign policy—no less than politics—often consists in choosing between the disastrous and the merely unpalatable.

Rutten is a Times columnist. E-mail him at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Damaging winds. Northwest winds 50 to 60 mph with gusts to 80 mph becoming west and increasing to 60 to 75 mph with gusts to 100 mph in the afternoon. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Locally heavy rainfall possible.

▲81° ▼76°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 25 to 35 mph becoming southeast 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

▲84° ▼75°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼77°

TUESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°

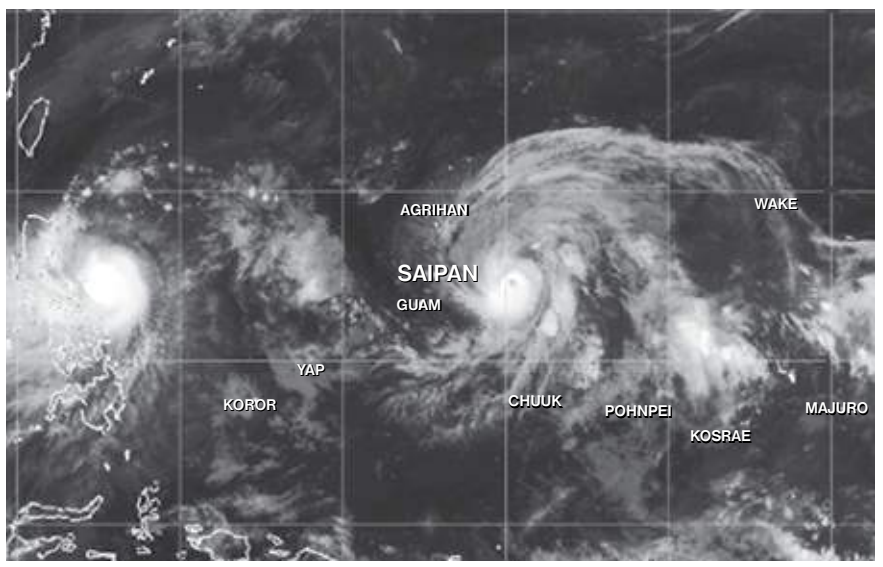
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲89	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼49
Beijing	Sunny	▲70	▼50
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Showers	▲64	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼44
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
New York	Thunderstorms	▲68	▼60
Osaka	Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲77	▼53
Rome	Sunny	▲75	▼56
Salem	Showers	▲59	▼40
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67	▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼63
Washington, DC	Showers	▲79	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Melor (20W) is east of Saipan near 14N151E moving west-northwest at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph. Heavy showers and thunderstorms cover the area within 100 miles of the center while scattered showers and thunderstorms embedded in spiral bands are in an area from 20N152E to 20N155E to 13N154E to 11N151E to 12N147E back to 20N152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk are within 75 miles of a line from 11N154E to 8N151E. See National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ34 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN34 PGTW. Low-level convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 20N135E to 16N140E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from 13N161E to 8N162E and north of the Marshall islands within 125 miles of a line from 13N172E to 11N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:00 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
6:48 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:07 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:03 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:14 PM	4:56 AM
Sunday	5:52 PM	5:46 AM
Monday	6:32 PM	6:38 AM
Tuesday	7:16 PM	7:32 AM
Wednesday	8:05 PM	8:29 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 3, 2000

CDA asks banks to invest more on housing loans

In fresh efforts to beef up the CNMI government's housing program, the Commonwealth Development Authority has started negotiation with private banks and financial institutions, encouraging them to intensify their long-term loan packages for homes. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said some of the banking institutions in the Northern Marianas have already pledged to upgrade their portfolio earmarked for long-term housing loans but only up to a limited amount. Mr. Tenorio explained that private financial companies normally look at loan agreements that stretch up to 20-25 years are too risky especially on the residential side due to prevailing impression that there is not enough market for housing units in the CNMI.

$2-M sought for Filipino worker in wrongful death suit

The family of a Filipino contract worker who died in a boating accident in Managaha nearly two years ago has sought damages of at least $2 million in a civil complaint filed with the U.S. District Court. The suit blamed Kan Pacific Ltd. for the wrongful death of Ferdinand A. Awitan, who was employed by HBR International when the accident occurred on Dec. 11, 1998. His brother Raul A. Awitan is representing the estate, whose beneficiaries include Ferdinand's parents, his wife and their two children, according to the complaint filed on behalf of the family by lawyer Eric Smith.

Oct. 3, 2001

Debate bares gubernatorial bets' stand on critical issues

At first, they were pulling their punches-gentlemen to the bone and flashing toothpaste ad smiles. By the time the first intermission rolled by, claws were beginning to show and feathers were starting to get ruffled. By the time the debate neared its end, guns were a-blazing and Mr. Nice Guy got shoved to the back of the stage as the three contenders waded in-claws, fangs and all. The tension was so thick that, when the debate finally ended, the entire place erupted into cheers, catcalls, and clapping that became a sustained standing ovation. As expected, the gubernatorial candidates debate sponsored by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on Monday night was a tour-de-force, with all three candidates displaying impressive speaking skills while enunciating their respective positions on the issues that were taken up.

MVA's Saipanda wears new outfit

A Japan-based production company yesterday donated a new Saipanda mascot costume to the Marianas Visitors Authority for its on-island and off-island promotional activities. Officials of Japan's First Impression Production Co., arrived on Saipan to personally present to MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio and Deputy Managing Director Vicky Benavente the six-foot Saipanda mascot costume made in the United States. First Impression Production Co., official Kentaro Shimizu said the Saipanda costume, which has a built-in fan, costs $7,000.

Oct. 3, 2002

House overrides budget vetoes

The House of Representatives yesterday moved to restore the 12 line items vetoed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta on the $217-million Fiscal Year 2003 budget, in a rare override supported by a powerhouse 14-to-one vote by members. Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider justified the House action as a "policy call" that he hoped the Senate would concur with. "Most, if not all, of the reasons why the House decided to take up the override today was on the basis of principle. The House voted unanimously to pass the budget, as did the Senate, without amendments. And that's a remarkable feat for a budget, especially since we have not had a budget for four to five years. As Speaker of the House, this tells me that the basis of the language of the budget, as acted on by both houses, is consistent in our views," Hofschneider told reporters yesterday.

Customs collections drop to $53M

Customs collections took a beating in the recently ended financial year, totaling $53.31 million in 2002 representing a steep 14-percent plunge compared to the year-end collections in 2001. From the $62.2 million collected in fiscal year 2001, total collections in both the user's fee and excise tax showed a loss of nearly $9 million this last fiscal year. This slide in collections represents the second straight year that customs collections have been going down from a high of $64.6 million in fiscal year 2000.

Business

Unemployment to rise, could hit 10 percent

WASHINGTON (AP)—The unemployment rate hasn't topped 10 percent since June 1983, but it could return to that painful level soon—possibly as early as Friday, when the Labor Department issues its monthly jobs report.

Even as the economy shows signs of life, some employers are still cutting jobs, and many more are reluctant to hire after enduring the worst recession since the 1930s.

A return to 10 percent unemployment could pose political problems for President Barack Obama, who pushed through an ambitious $787 billion stimulus package in February intended to "save or create" 3.5 million jobs by the end of 2010. The administration said earlier this month about 1 million jobs have been saved so far.

But Republicans charge the stimulus has been an expensive failure as a net total of about 3 million jobs have been lost since its passage.

The Labor Department is scheduled to release unemployment figures for September on Friday. Wall Street economists expect the rate to rise slightly to 9.8 percent, from 9.7 percent in August. Employers are forecast to have cut 180,000 jobs, which would be the fewest since August 2008.

Obama said in a speech earlier this week that his efforts have "broken our economic freefall," though he acknowledged the labor market hasn't improved.

Also Friday, the Commerce Department is scheduled to release a report on August factory orders, which include both durable and non-durable goods. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expect factory orders rose 0.7 percent following a 1.3 percent gain in July.

But the possibility of a surprise exists. Economists' forecasts for the August figure ranged from a decline of 1.5 percent to an increase of 2.1 percent, underscoring the uncertainty that exists as the economy attempts to rebound from the longest recession since the 1930s.

The reports will follow largely discouraging economic data Thursday.

First-time jobless claims rose more than expected last week to a seasonally adjusted 551,000, the Labor Department said. Economists viewed it as a sign that employers remain reluctant to hire.

And factories are struggling to mount a sustainable rebound. A gauge of manufacturing activity came in at 52.6 for September, the Institute for Supply Management said—enough to signal growth for the second straight month but still down from August.

Sept. US auto sales fall amid clunkers letdown

DETROIT (AP)—A Cash for Clunkers hangover hit every major automaker except Hyundai last month, pushing down sales and leaving the industry searching for signs of a recovery in October.

U.S. sales of cars and light trucks fell to just under 746,000 in September, down 41 percent from August.

Both GM and Chrysler were the biggest losers last month, while Ford, the healthiest of the Detroit Three, reported the smallest drop of major automakers. Of the top companies, only Hyundai posted higher sales, up 27 percent from September 2008.

Last month's slump brings car and truck makers back to earth following a heady August. Automakers got a lift from clunkers, which spurred sales of nearly 700,000 new vehicles during the summer months. Big rebates lured in many buyers who otherwise would have waited until later in the year to walk into dealerships.

Still, both GM and Ford said the clunkers letdown should pass by next month. They also forecast a slight recovery in sales with signs of economic improvement.

October, however, is traditionally a slow month for sales. On top of that, shoppers are guarding their wallets, worried about keeping their jobs in a fragile economy. The question remains whether dealers can really lure them back and help the industry recover over the remainder of the year.

Higher incentives didn't shake buyers from their September slumber. Automakers spent an average of $2,557 per vehicle in the U.S., up $83 from August, according to the auto Web site Edmunds.com.

"After five straight months of decline, incentives are on the rise again," Edmunds analyst Jessica Caldwell said. "Now that Cash for Clunkers is over, automakers have to give consumers an incentive to buy—out of their own pockets, not the taxpayers'."

Ford Motor Co.'s sales fell 5.1 percent, but the decline followed two straight months of rising sales. Two of the Dearborn, Mich. company's vehicles—the Focus and Escape—were top sellers in the clunkers program.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Suppliers face winter flu vaccine delays, cutbacks

Waiting for the swine flu vaccine? Well, you might have to wait a bit longer for a seasonal flu shot, too. The biggest makers of seasonal flu vaccines in the U.S. are running into delays or cutting back shipments—partly because of the crunch to produce millions of doses of the new swine flu vaccine. Drugmaker Sanofi Pasteur said it has shipped more than half of the 50.5 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine ordered and it could be November before some U.S. customers get the rest of their shipments. Novartis AG and GlaxoSmithKline PLC said Thursday their shipments are on schedule. But they've told customers they may get about 10 percent less than ordered. ***(AP)***

Cops analyze evidence from Tenn. newborn abduction

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Nashville investigators are collecting evidence at the home of a newborn snatched after his mother says she was attacked by a woman posing as an immigration agent. Police spokesman Don Aaron says new leads are coming in every hour in the abduction of Yair Anthony Carillo, who will be a week old on Friday and has been missing since Tuesday. A crime scene analyst has been to the home looking for evidence that could lead to the suspect. The mother, Maria Gurrolla, says the woman who attacked her was heavyset with blond hair.

Texas judge clears way for gay divorce

DALLAS (AP)—A Texas judge cleared the way for two Dallas men to get a divorce, ruling Thursday that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage violates the constitutional guarantee to equal protection under the law. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said he'd appeal the ruling, which he labeled an attempt to strike down the ban approved by voters in 2005. "The laws and constitution of the State of Texas define marriage as an institution involving one man and one woman," Abbott said in a written statement. "Today's ruling purports to strike down that constitutional definition—despite the fact that it was recently adopted by 75 percent of Texas voters."

Elizabeth Smart says she was raped daily

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Taking the stand for the first time since she was snatched from her girlhood bedroom seven years ago, Elizabeth Smart testified Thursday that her captor raped her three or four times a day, kept her tied up with a cable around her leg, and threatened to kill her if she tried to escape.

Asked by a prosecutor to describe Brian David Mitchell, the self-described prophet accused of holding her captive for nine months, Smart replied: "Evil, wicked, manipulative, stinky, slimy, greedy, selfish, not spiritual, not religious, not close to God."

Smart, now a 21-year-old college student, gave her horrifying account in federal court as part of a proceeding over whether Mitchell is mentally competent to stand trial.

The 55-year-old one-time street preacher has been behind bars since 2003—mostly in a state mental hospital—but has yet to stand trial. Twice he has been ruled mentally incompetent in state court, and he has often demonstrated bizarre behavior, including incessantly singing hymns in the courtroom and once yelling at a judge to repent.

AP

Elizabeth Smart, right, walks out of the federal courthouse with her mother Lois Smart after testifying at a competency hearing for her alleged kidnapper, Brian David Mitchell, Oct. 1 2009, in Salt Lake City.

Smart testified that within hours of her 2002 kidnapping at knifepoint, she was led away to a secluded mountain campsite and in a quickie ceremony became the polygamous "wife" of the older man.

"After that he proceeded to rape me," Smart said, sharing for the first time publicly her account of the ordeal.

She said Mitchell showed her pornography and plied her with alcohol and drugs to lower her resistance to his sexual advances. Once, Smart said, she tried to fight Mitchell off by biting him.

On the stand for nearly two hours, Smart was poised, her voice never wavering. She did not come face-to-face with her alleged tormenter. Mitchell was removed from the courtroom for disruptive behavior—singing hymns—before Smart arrived, and watched the proceedings from a holding cell.

A federal judge ruled earlier this week that Smart's testimony is relevant to the question of Mitchell's competency. Mitchell's competency hearing is not set to begin until Nov. 30, but Smart testified early because she is going on a religious mission for the Mormon church in Paris.

Smart was 14 when she was abducted from her bedroom in the middle of the night. In a surprising turn that transfixed the country, she was rescued in March 2003 after a motorist spotted her walking the streets of a Salt Lake City suburb with Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Eileen Barzee.

Smart testified that in the days immediately following the kidnapping, Mitchell held her captive with the help of a 10-foot cable bolted to her leg and tethered to a line stretched between two trees. She said Mitchell threatened to kill her if she yelled or tried to get away.

Smart said Mitchell would rape her three to four times a day. There was some respite—usually when Barzee became upset over Mitchell's relationship with Smart—but it never lasted, Smart said.

Mitchell is charged in state court with kidnapping and sexual assault. Last year, he was indicted on federal charges of kidnapping and transporting a minor across state lines. In both the state and federal cases, experts have split over Mitchell's competency.

Dems ease impact of health case bill, big advance nears

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fearing a backlash, Democrats smoothed the impact of sweeping health care legislation on working-class families Thursday night and steered President Barack Obama's top domestic priority toward a crucial Senate advance. The most far-reaching overhaul in decades aims to protect millions who have unreliable coverage or none at all.

Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee attacked the bill as riddled with tax increases that violated Obama's campaign promises, but failed to remove any of them.

After marathon public debate, agreement by the committee is all but certain for the legislation, although no final vote was expected until next week. That formality—Democrats hold a 13-10 majority on the panel - will clear the way for the full Senate to begin work on the measure at mid-month.

The legislation, like a companion bill under construction in the House, would bar insurance companies from denying coverage or charging higher premiums on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. It also includes federal subsidies to make insurance available to millions who lack it, and it takes steps to slow the skyrocketing growth in health care costs nationwide.

Supporters said the overhaul's cost was in the range that Obama has set, about $900 billion over a decade, and would not raise federal deficits. Gradually, health care has grown to dwarf all other issues in Congress, and is causing supporters and opponents to spend more than $1 million a day on television advertising to sway the outcome.

After days spent largely turning aside Republican calls for changes in the bill, Senate Democrats coalesced behind two of their own that could alter the legislation in significant ways.

One, backed by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., would allow states to negotiate with insurers to arrange coverage for people with incomes slightly higher than the cutoff for Medicaid, the government health care program for the poor.

The second, which passed on a 22-1 vote, would exempt millions of people from a requirement to purchase insurance that is currently in the bill and reduce the penalties on millions more who defy the mandate.

"First and foremost we have an obligation to show we achieved the goal of affordability, which is what this legislation is all about," said Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, who worked with Democrats on the change and is the only Republican in Congress viewed as a potential supporter of the overall legislation.

Experts: Terror suspect could have killed scores

NEW YORK (AP)—The Afghan immigrant accused of buying large quantities of hair dye and nail polish remover to make explosives had the goods to kill scores of people in New York—a devastating attack on a scale with the transit bombings in London and Madrid, according to documents and interviews with former FBI experts.

Prosecutors have not said exactly what kind or number of bombs Najibullah Zazi planned to build, but court documents hint at the possibilities. It is likely he wanted to borrow a tactic used overseas by making bombs out of flour and hydrogen peroxide and putting them in backpacks, perhaps in the city's transit system, experts say.

The case has been described as perhaps the most serious terrorist plot uncovered in the U.S. since 9/11. However, experts said Zazi, who is being held without bail in New York, had the means to kill scores of people—not hundreds or thousands.

"These explosives are meant to be concealed easily and deployed easily and kill and maim and cause havoc in small areas," said Denny Kline, a retired FBI explosives expert. For a really big bomb, "you're going to need a truck."

How far along Zazi managed to get is unclear. Investigators have not said whether he successfully built or tested any bombs.

Court documents indicate that the 24-year-old Zazi and others were hitting beauty supply stores, buying certain materials clearly used to make bombs. They bought concentrated bottles of hydrogen peroxide hair dye with names like Liquid Developer Clairoxide, Ion Sensitive Scalp Developer and Ms. K Liquid 40 Volume.

He and others also bought acetone—nail polish remover—and other ingredients that can be used to make a powerful and highly unstable explosive called triacetone triperoxide, or TATP. The same explosive was used by would-be shoe bomber Richard Reid in 2001 and the terrorists who carried out the London bombings in 2005 that killed 52 people.

Okla. boy's sister says she feared reporting abuse

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The sister of an Oklahoma boy who says his mother locked him in apartment closets over four years said Thursday she would bring her brother food, but would tell him not to chew because their mother would check his teeth to see whether he had eaten.

Jaleasa McCall, 18, told The Associated Press that her mother beat, whipped, choked and tied up her 14-year-old brother, often locking him away for days at a time.

She said she would bring her brother food and sympathy, but couldn't summon the courage to call police.

"He was losing a lot of weight. Some days he would be pale from being in there so long," McCall said. "He would really start to smell and stuff. It looked to me like he was losing hope."

The mother, LaRhonda McCall, 37, and a friend, Steven Hamilton, 38, are jailed on 20 complaints each of child abuse and child neglect after the boy, malnourished and covered in bruises and scars, sought help from a security guard at a National Guard armory last Friday. A police affidavit says both acknowledged beating the boy and that he often was locked in a closet. Jail officials do not know of an attorney for either.

LaRhonda McCall was convicted of second-degree manslaughter in New York in 1996 in the death of her 2-year-old daughter and served six months jail time. Prosecutors in that case alleged McCall, who then went by LaRhonda Presley, essentially starved the toddler who died in February 1995, according to a New York grand jury indictment obtained by the AP.

Jaleasa McCall was 4 years old at the time and said Thursday that she doesn't remember her sister, but said she and her brother went to live with a cousin in New Jersey for several years after their mother was convicted. She said she moved to Oklahoma to live with her mother in 2007, a couple years after her brother moved to the state.

Asia

Frantic rescue effort follows big Indonesian quake

PADANG, Indonesia (AP)—Medical teams, search dogs, backhoes and emergency supplies were flown into the devastated western coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island Friday to bolster frantic rescue attempts for thousands buried by a powerful earthquake.

The official death toll from Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude quake stood at 715, the Health Ministry's crisis center chief Rustam Pakaya told The Associated Press. He said more than 2,000 people were injured and "thousands" missing based on reports from relatives, though he could not put a firm number yet on the missing.

One U.N. estimate said as many as 1,100 may have died.

A lack of heavy digging equipment made it nearly impossible to pry apart giant slabs of concrete from toppled buildings, officials said.

AP

A man covers his face near the rubbles of a collapsed building in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009.

The crushed remains of the dead were beginning to decompose in the tropical heat and mass funeral arrangements were being made by families at local mosques.

With communications and power supplies still down in many areas, fuel was being rationed to focus on locating thousands still missing.

"Heavy equipment and rescuers are our priority," said spokesman Priyadi Kardono of the national disaster management agency. "We have to give them complete access to enable them to rush to the victims."

Myanmar court rejects opposition leader's appeal

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A court in military-ruled Myanmar rejected opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's latest bid for freedom Friday, turning down an appeal of her most recent sentence of house arrest, her lawyer said.

Suu Kyi was convicted and sentenced in August for briefly sheltering an uninvited American at her home earlier this year, in a verdict that drew international condemnation and ensured that she would not be able to participate in elections scheduled for next year.

She argued in the appeal that the conviction was unwarranted, but the Yangon Division court ruled against the appeal, lawyer Nyan Win said.

He said Suu Kyi's legal team would file a new appeal to the Supreme Court within 60 days, and that Friday's proceedings had opened a new possibility for the defense's legal arguments.

He said the court accepted the argument that the 1974 constitution under which she was charged was null and void. However, the court said the provisions of the 1975 security law under which Suu Kyi has been kept under house arrest remained in force.

"I think there is a window open over there. They have opened a window," Nyan Win said.

Pakistan: US missile said to kill a top militant

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The al-Qaida-linked leader of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan is believed to have been killed by a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan's northwest, intelligence officials said Friday. The Taliban denied the claim.

Tahir Yuldash's death would be a significant blow to the militant groups that have wreaked havoc along the Afghan-Pakistan border and the latest victory for the covert American missile program.

Yuldash was wounded in an Aug. 27 missile strike in the South Waziristan tribal region and is believed to have died a few days later, said the four intelligence officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Many Uzbek militants hide in Pakistan's tribal regions and are involved in militancy there and in Afghanistan. The Uzbeks are considered some of the fiercest insurgents.

The Pakistani officials said they had received the information about Yuldash's death from militant sources. However, Qari Hussain, a top militant among the Taliban ranks, called The Associated Press on Friday to insist that Yuldash was not dead.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: Indian rebels kill 16 villagers

PATNA, India (AP)—Maoist rebels killed 16 people, including five children, in an early morning attack Friday on a rural village in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, a police official said. Security forces were combing the villages and forests around the attacked village, Amosi Bharen, in search of the rebels, said Additional Director General of Police Neelmani, who uses only one name. The village is about 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of Patna, the capital of the east Indian state of Bihar.

13 hurt as bomb-rigged car explodes in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A car bomb exploded in northwest Sri Lanka on Friday and wounded 13 people, including 12 schoolchildren about to travel in the vehicle, the military said. It was the first major bomb blast reported in the country since government troops crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels in May, after a 25-year insurgency for an independent homeland. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said a private dispute is suspected behind the blast. He said an investigation is continuing. He said the bomb had been set up to explode when the engine was started Friday morning near the town of Kurunegala.

NATO airstrike is said to kill 6 Afghan civilians

KABUL (AP)—A NATO airstrike on a compound in southwestern Afghanistan killed a family of six, a local tribal leader said Thursday, despite orders from the top U.S. commander to avoid airpower if civilians are at risk. The U.S. military said the airstrike occurred after troops came under fire from the compound late Wednesday. There were conflicting reports about the attack, which took place in southern Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold. A British military spokesman, Lt. Col. Nick Richardson, said there were unconfirmed reports that 12 people were killed—including six children, two women and four militants.

World

Iran, world powers agree to further nuclear talks

GENTHOD, Switzerland (AP)—Iran and six world powers put nuclear talks back on track Thursday at a landmark session that included the highest-level bilateral contact with the U.S. in years and a pledge to meet again this month. President Barack Obama then challenged Tehran to make good on its promises quickly.

Iran also agreed to allow U.N. inspectors into its covertly built enrichment plant during the talks, held at a villa outside Geneva. The discussions appeared to defuse tensions that had been building for weeks.

Speaking in Washington, Obama called the talks "a constructive beginning" and said Iran must match its words with action.

Tehran "must grant unfettered access" to international inspectors within two weeks, he said, warning that if Iran fails to follow through, "then the United States will not continue to negotiate indefinitely and we are prepared to move towards increased pressure."

"Our patience is not unlimited," Obama said. "Going forward, we expect to see swift action."

The tone of Thursday's meeting was considerably more positive than just a week ago, when the U.S. and its allies were threatening Iran with tough new sanctions if it refused to freeze its nuclear activities, which they suspect are aimed at creating an atomic weapon.

Perhaps the most significant development of the day was a 45-minute one-on-one meeting between U.S. Under Secretary of State William Burns and Iran's senior nuclear negotiator, Saaed Jalili. It was the first direct U.S. negotiations with Iran since Washington severed relations in 1980.

Diplomats: Palestinians drop Gaza resolution

GENEVA (AP)—The Palestinian Authority, under heavy pressure from the United States, has withdrawn its support for a U.N. Human Rights Council resolution on alleged war crimes in Gaza, diplomats said Thursday.

The resolution endorses a U.N. report that claims both Israel and Palestinian militant groups committed war crimes and possible crimes against humanity during their Dec. 27-Jan. 18 conflict.

Palestinian officials earlier this week welcomed the report when it was presented to the Geneva-based rights council, while Israel and the United States have strongly rejected the findings.

U.N. and European diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with reporters, said the Palestinian delegation's surprise turnaround means any resolution on the report would likely be delayed until next March.

Although the Palestinians aren't voting members of the 47-nation rights council, Arab and Muslim countries who control the body may be reluctant to press ahead with the resolution Friday without Palestinian support.

A senior U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Palestinian decision came after "intense diplomacy" by Washington to convince the Palestinian leadership that going ahead with the resolution would harm the Middle East peace process.

Turkey: student protester hurls shoe at IMF chief

ISTANBUL (AP)—A student journalist threw a shoe at IMF Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn on Thursday and ran toward the stage shouting "IMF get out!" as the finance official answered questions at a university in Istanbul.

The white sports shoe bounced off another student's head but missed the IMF chief before landing beside him on the speaker's platform. Some students applauded. Strauss-Kahn moved to the side, and a security guard rushed to protect him.

Other guards quickly blocked the man—a student and a journalist with a small left-wing newspaper—from reaching the platform. They pushed him to the floor, covered his mouth with their hands and then dragged him from the hall.

A female protester also tried to unfurl a banner while shouting "IMF get out!" but she was escorted out of the conference hall.

The conference was then cut short and the hall evacuated.

Both of the protesters were later released, the semiofficial Anatolia news agency said. It was not clear whether they will face any charges.

It was the latest copycat shoe protest imitating the shoe attack last year directed at former President George W. Bush by an Iraqi journalist in Baghdad.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel, Palestinians ready for prisoner swap

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel and the Palestinians are taking a first, tentative step toward swapping a captive Israeli soldier for hundreds of Palestinians held in Israeli jails. Israel is to receive a recent videotape of the soldier - the first glimpse of Sgt. Gilad Schalit since he was captured more than three years ago. If Israel confirms the videotape is authentic and recent, 20 Palestinian women prisoners are to be freed to the West Bank and Gaza. Friday's deal marks the first tangible sign of progress in more than three years of talks aimed at a much larger prisoner exchange. It could also lead to an end to a crippling, Israel-led blockade of impoverished Gaza. The Palestinians want as many as 1,000 of their prisoners freed in exchange for Schalit. Some have been convicted of deadly attacks on Israelis.

Somalia: 12 die as rival Islamist groups fight

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Fighting between rival Islamist factions on Thursday over control of a key Somali port city killed at least 12 people, most of them combatants, said witnesses and medical staff. The fighting is the first concrete sign of a major split in the Islamist alliance that poses the main threat to Somalia's fragile U.N.-backed government. The fighting broke out early Thursday morning in five areas of Kismayo, a port that is Somalia's third largest town and the stronghold of two powerful militant groups.

Political scheme turns Mexican into odd celebrity

MEXICO CITY (AP)—An eccentric street vendor known for his Rambo-style headband took charge of Mexico City's most populous borough Thursday—at least for a few hours. Rafael Acosta strode into Mexico City's legislature with his arms raised triumphantly and was sworn into office. Immediately after the ceremony, he requested a leave of absence—part of an elaborate political scheme that has captivated Mexico. The concept is this: Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the leader of Mexico's left, wants to hold onto Iztapalapa, a poor but populous borough of 1.8 million people that is the equivalent of a swing state in presidential elections.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 3, 2009

LBC offers free shipping for Ondoy donations

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

LBC Mabuhay Saipan Inc. is offering a free container shipping charge for donations to typhoon victims in Manila.

LBS said it has committed its services to this emergency response and fundraising drive and is now coordinating with the United Filipino Organization.

The Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa are also separately conducting fundraising drives to raise funds that will assist victims of Typhoon Ondoy (international name: Ketsana).

UFO Secretary Minda Castro reiterated appeals to the Filipino community on Saipan yesterday to support their fundraising drive after UFO president Olive Yana obtained confirmation from LBC.

Instead of just cash donations—as earlier planned due to problems with shipping arrangements—church groups, families and friends may now donate any of the following: cash, canned goods, noodles, rice, crackers, clothing, footwear, towels, blankets, cookware, utensils, first aid kits, disposable diapers, bath and detergent soaps, toothbrushes and toothpastes, etc.

"We all know that most of our poor brothers and sisters lost everything they had during the flood. So anything that you think would help them survive another day would be appreciated," said Castro.

A donation box had been placed at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. To give a donation, contact Yana at 234-6529 or 285-7893.

LBC would be shipping the donations directly to the Sagip Kapamilya Foundation of television network ABS-CBN.

AP

Residents line up to receive relief goods from volunteers at a remote village in San Mateo, Rizal province, Philippines on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009.

CREAM is spearheading a Typhoon Relief Drive on Sunday, Oct. 4, starting at 11am. Monetary donations are preferred so freight costs of boxes for donated goods will not be needed. Donations may be dropped off at the Minachom Atdao pavilion. The money will be sent to the Philippine National Red Cross.

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa has ordered a second collection to be done in all the Masses in all Catholic churches on Saipan, Rota and Tinian this Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, in response to the appeal by the Philippine government for massive relief efforts for those devastated by the floods.

As of yesterday, the death toll from Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines stood at 247.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, which had been closely monitoring the situation, estimates Ketsana's economic damages at about Php 4.9 billion pesos, including ruined public and private infrastructures.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said about 263 schools were also affected.

Macaraig said the Department of Foreign Affairs had instructed all foreign embassies and consulates to disseminate information that donors may turn over cash donations to the Department of Social Welfare and Development account with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Batasan Complex Branch, with account number 3122-1011-84.

"This is a time for everybody to join hands together and help whatever way we can for the typhoon victims," said Macaraig.

He downplayed notions that the Philippines was not ready for this kind of calamity, saying that despite the 2.5 billion people affected by the typhoon, the death toll is still a small percentage.

"It's unfair to brand us as not prepared but it's not also proper to say we are prepared. The fact is that the rescue operations have been quite successful and many lives were saved," he said.

Fee-free money transfers for Ondoy aid

SAN FRANCISCO, California (INQUIRER.net)—Xoom.com has announced fee-free money transfers to assist the Philippine National Red Cross with relief efforts to victims of tropical storm Ondoy.

Donors can visit www.xoom.com/philippines and enter the coupon code "HELPONDOY" to make a fee free money transfer donation to the PNRC. This special coupon code is valid until Friday, Oct. 9, 2009.

"Xoom.com is here to help the Filipino community and is offering fee-free money transfers to the Philippine National Red Cross to help our family and friends in the Philippines," said Julian King, Xoom.com senior vice president for marketing and corporate development.

So, how can one use Xoom.com to help?

Customers can use the following steps to make a donation to the Philippine National Red Cross:

Step 1 – Sign up for a Xoom.com account with an email address or sign in to an existing Xoom.com account.

Step 2 – Select Bank Deposit as a disbursement option.

Step 3 – Enter the following Recipient Name and Bank Account details:

Recipient Name - Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)

Bank Account Details - The following Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) bank account details will be needed at the time of the transaction. Customers can enter any one of the following bank accounts to make their donation:

PNRC Peso Accounts:

- Banco de Oro – Peso Account: 453-0018647
- Bank of the Philippine Islands – Peso Account: 4991-0010-99
- Metrobank – Peso Account: 151-3-04163122-8
- Philippine National Bank – Peso Account: 3623-3680-0011

PNRC Dollar Accounts:

- Banco de Oro – Dollar Account: 453-0039482
- Bank of the Philippine Islands – Dollar Account: 8114-0030-94
- Metrobank – Dollar Account: 151-2-151002182
- Philippine National Bank – Dollar Account: 375-283500026

Enter Recipient Address and Phone Number:

Philippine National Red Cross
National Headquarters
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila 2803, Philippines
Phone Number 632 527 0000

Livelihood classes for OFWs cancelled

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to Typhoon Melor, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office on Saipan ordered yesterday a temporary suspension of all the classes for the livelihood, skills and reintegration program for overseas Filipino workers.

Resumption of classes will be announced later next week.

Two classes for skills training started two weekends ago, including Basic Computer Operations every Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

As of yesterday, the official list from POLO showed a total of 30 students for the Saturday class under volunteer instructor Jonsel Regilme, while 38 have enrolled for the Sunday class under Cris Hilario.

Two reintegration classes, including basic baking and cake decorating and meat processing, were also suspended.

A total of 31 students for the Sunday afternoon class (1pm-5pm) for baking under Ofel Lopez were supposed to have their second day of class.

The whole day Saturday class (8am-5pm) for meat processing under volunteer instructor Hermie Coronejo was supposed to start today.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Consulate General appealed to its students to take these trainings seriously.

"It's free and an opportunity for them to acquire new skills. The benefits will follow," Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig said.

He assured that the Philippine consulate would continue to support this program as this is could also be a businessmaking opportunity for OFWs.

? LABOR FRONT

Job vacancy announcement posting

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Where can one see the posting of job vacancy announcement?

A: An employer who is not otherwise exempt and who intends to employ an alien worker (under a new employment contract, a renewal of existing employment contract, or a transfer from an existing employment contract) must post a job vacancy announcement on the Department of Labor's website, www.marianaslabor.net. According to Labor, any other employer may also post job vacancy announcements on Labor's website.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What are the contents of a posted job vacancy announcement?

A: According to Labor, the job description in a posted job vacancy announcement shall be defined by the Occupational Information Network (O-NET), which is an online database that stores information on occupational titles bases on the most current version of the Standard Occupational Classification System.

O-NET is found at http://online.onetcenter.org. For specialty jobs not adequately defined by O-NET classifications, a parenthetical description may be appended to the closest O-NET classification.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Are the wages included in the posted job vacancy announcement?

A: Yes. The statement of wages in a posted job vacancy announcement should include the monthly or bi-weekly amount to be paid and any statement required to comply with regulations issued pursuant to the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act.

Employers, Labor said, should register with Employment Service online at www.marianaslabor.net or in writing in order to post job vacancy announcements.

Disclaimer: *Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice.* Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the* Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

Evacuations start for new Philippine storm

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos in the likely path of a looming typhoon began evacuating Friday, as the toll from a storm that tore across Southeast Asia days earlier rose to more than 400.

Officials fear Typhoon Parma—due to hit Saturday unless it changes course—will cause a second disaster in the northern Philippines after the worst flooding in four decades swamped the homes of more than 2 million people.

The storm that caused those floods, Ketsana, also ripped across Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, killing at least 406 people—293 in the Philippines, 99 in Vietnam and 14 in Cambodia.

Disaster officials said evacuations have begun in low-lying and mountainous villages in several provinces north and east of Manila, and officials were poised to relocate other communities in Parma's path, once that became clearer Friday.

Residents wade through floodwaters with their belongings to go to evacuation centers Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009 at San Pedro township, Laguna province 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Manila, Philippines.

AP

Refugees from Ketsana were asked to halt any plans to return home and stay in shelters.

Some 300,000 people have returned to their homes from shelters in schools and other places, though about 400,000 are still housed there, said Glenn Rabonza, executive officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Heavy rain fell on parts of the eastern coast Friday morning, as Parma swirled slowly northwest. It was about 170 miles (270 kilometers) off eastern Catanduanes province, the government's weather bureau said.

Parma is packing sustained winds of up to 120 mph (195 kph) and gusts up to 140 mph (230 kph), the government's weather bureau said. The bureau's chief Nathaniel Cruz said this was enough to be very destructive.

Possible Signal No. 4 in Luzon

By ALCUIN PAPA and JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Say prayers, prepare, and brace for the worst.

With a more powerful storm threatening the country, officials on Thursday issued this advice to the public as Metro Manila and neighboring areas continued to reel from the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

The weather office said Typhoon "Pepeng" (international name: Parma) could develop into a supertyphoon within the next 24 hours and would not weaken even if it made landfall.

"Keep glued to the radio and TV (for information), prepare for the strong rains and let's all pray ... let's hope it doesn't become stronger," said Nathaniel Cruz, deputy director for operations of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Pepeng is expected to make landfall in the provinces of Aurora and Isabela in northern Luzon by Saturday morning.

As of 4 p.m. Thursday, the eye of Pepeng was spotted 440 kilometers east of Catarman, Northern Samar. It is packing maximum sustained winds of 195 kph with gustiness of up to 230 kph and moving west northwest at 24 kph.

Storm Signal No. 4

Pagasa said it could raise public Storm Signal No. 4 over northern Luzon Friday night if Pepeng continued to strengthen.

Storm Signal No. 4 means winds of up to 215 kph over a region, according to Pagasa Director Prisco Nilo.

Nilo said Pepeng could reach the category of supertyphoon at 215 kph or more by noon or afternoon Saturday. "But this could change. It may still slow down, weaken or become stationary."

Ondoy (international name: Ketsana) at its height packed maximum center winds of 85 kph.

"It's possible that we will have to raise Storm Signal No. 4 over Northern Luzon by Friday at around 11 p.m.," Nilo told reporters.

Not since Supertyphoon "Reming" in 2006, which devastated the Bicol region, especially Albay province, has Storm Signal No. 4 been raised over any part of the country.

Disaster relief response teams

As part of the preparations, the Philippine Navy Thursday said that disaster relief response teams, equipped with rubber boats, portable generators, M35 trucks and life-saving kits, had been fielded in the provinces of Cagayan, La Union, Pangasinan and Zambales.

Each team consisted of 15 enlisted personnel, according to Navy spokesperson Lt. Col. Egdard Arevalo. Naval reservists residing in Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija have been placed on alert status, he said.

Warnings from Teodoro

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., head of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), spent the whole day Thursday visiting provinces to deliver warnings and inform local officials of steps to take when Pepeng strikes the country.

Teodoro and other government officials met with local civil defense coordinators across Metro Manila before he flew to La Union, Tuguegarao and Pampanga.

Teodoro stressed the need for local government units to identify temporary shelters and take preemptive evacuation of people in vulnerable areas to prevent further casualties.

At the Clark Freeport, Teodoro said people who would refuse evacuation when told should not expect that they would be given priority in rescue operations when Pepeng strikes.

He said children, especially infants, would be taken from their parents or guardians who refused evacuation.

Oratio Imperata

As Pepeng moves toward Luzon, Auxiliary Bishop Lucilo Quiambao of the Archdiocese of Legazpi encouraged Filipinos to pray the "Oratio Imperata For Deliverance From Calamities."

The prayer was said to have helped spare Albay from typhoons and disasters since Supertyphoon "Reming" struck almost three years ago.

The prayer has been recited since October 2007 in all the churches in the diocese during Mass. "Many have already asked for a copy of the prayer and it has already reached the United States," Quiambao said.

He asked that the prayer be recited in the parishes, homes and communities.

Signal No. 1 in Bicol

At 11 p.m. Thursday, Pagasa raised Storm Signal No. 2 over Catanduanes, and Storm Signal No. 1 over Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Quezon, Burias Island, Polilio Island, Aurora, Sorsogon and Northern Samar.

If Pepeng continues on its current track, Metro Manila, northern Luzon and central Luzon will experience moderate rainfall by Friday and possibly moderate to heavy rainfall by Saturday when Pepeng hits land.

For Metro Manila, Nilo said Pagasa might raise at most Storm Signal No. 2 by Friday night or Saturday morning.

He said Pepeng could weaken when it hit the Sierra Madre range but only by about 30 percent. "When that happens, it would still be a strong typhoon," he said.

"Saturday is critical to Metro Manila. We should take advantage of the window [of opportunity] that we now have," Cruz said.

Stocking up on food

As Pepeng approached, worried Manila residents who had returned to their homes after the floodwaters receded, and those whose houses were unaffected, were stocking up on food and emergency lights.

Waitress Angel Francisco, 16, rushed back to check on her mother at their still-flooded home in suburban Pasig City.

"There's a new typhoon according to the news and I am worried for my mother, she said, as she hitched a ride with a delivery truck to try and evacuate her mother.

Glen Juban, whose family was washed from the roof of their shanty by floodwaters on Saturday, expressed the hope that the typhoon would hit another place.

"We've been hit so hard. The situation now is just so difficult and I don't know if we can take some more, another calamity," he said. Juban, his wife and 13-year-old son survived but his 4-year-old daughter drowned.

Roofs being fixed

In Isabela, several residents started fixing their roofs and strengthening the foundations of their houses to minimize the typhoon's impact.

Criselda Balingao, a resident of Barangay Alibagu in Ilagan town, said she and her husband Amadeo had brought their household appliances and important belongings to their house's second floor and covered these with tarpaulin.

In Calasiao town in Pangasinan, Tina Mina, a resident of Barangay Doyong, said she and members of the family had started strengthening their house's roof in anticipation of strong wind.

"It is fearful when you hear the sound of roof getting blown away," she said.

In Zambales, Myrna Rafael, a resident of Botolan town, has readied her furniture, household appliances and her pet dog so she can take these to an evacuation center.

"We're like rats running away from water every time we hear about the coming of the rains. My family has been to at least two evacuation centers since August," Rafael said.

Susan Espinueva of the Pagasa Hydrological Division said most of the dams in Luzon have their floodgates opened.

These include the San Roque, Angat, Binga, Ambuklao, Magat, Pantabangan and Ipo Dams. She noted that Laguna Lake had already swelled.

Less rain

While Pepeng is likely to bring less rain than Ondoy, the typhoon is expected to compound flooding in Metro Manila, parts of which remain submerged due to blocked drainage systems.

Ondoy dumped the heaviest rains in four decades on Metro Manila and in surrounding areas, triggering floods that swamped the metropolis with up to 20 feet of water.

Ondoy has left 277 dead so far in the Philippines, according to the government, and killed about 100 more after pounding Vietnam and Cambodia.

The number of people known to have been affected by Ondoy in the Philippines rose to 2.5 million on Thursday, the government said in its latest update, up nearly 300,000 from Wednesday's estimate.

The number of flood survivors staying in gymnasiums, schools and other makeshift evacuation camps also continued to balloon, with about 687,000 people staying in them, the government said.

Those in the cramped, evacuation centers were told to prepare for the new storm, with fresh rains certain to aggravate already squalid conditions.

U.S. & CNMI IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman & Maya B. Kara

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.,
Garapan, Saipan

***BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

Climate change to affect 25M kids in 2050

MANILA, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—Climate change will cause the malnourishment of 25 million more children in 2050, according to a Wednesday report by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute and e-mailed to media outfits worldwide.

This study, the most comprehensive assessment of the impact of climate change on agriculture to date, compares the number of malnourished children in 2050 with and without climate change.

"This outcome could be averted with $7 billion per year of additional investments in agricultural productivity to help farmers to adapt to the effects of climate change. Investments are needed in agricultural research, improved irrigation, and rural roads to increase market access for poor farmers. Access to safe drinking water and education for girls is also essential," said Gerald Nelson, IFPRI senior research fellow and report lead author.

The study, "Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation," was prepared by IFPRI for inclusion in two separate reports from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, both released today in conjunction with international climate change meetings in Bangkok.

Without new technology and adjustments by farmers, climate change will reduce irrigated wheat yields in 2050 by around 30 percent in developing countries compared to a no-climate change scenario. Irrigated rice yields will fall by 15 percent.

Even without climate change, food prices will rise, but climate change makes the problem worse. Without climate change, 2050 wheat prices will increase globally by almost 40 percent. With climate change, wheat prices will increase by up to 194 percent. Rice is projected to increase 60 percent without climate change, but it will go up by as much as 121 percent with climate change. 2050 maize prices will be more than 60 percent higher without climate change, but they will be up to 153 percent higher with climate change.

The first of its kind, this study combines climate models that project changes in rainfall and temperature and a crop model to capture biophysical effects with IFPRI's economic model of world agriculture. The latter projects changes in the production, consumption, and trade of major agricultural commodities.

The modeling does not include: the effects of increased variability in weather due to climate change; the loss of agricultural lands due to rising sea levels; climate change-induced increases in pests and diseases; and increased variability in river flow as glaciers melt.

All these factors could increase the damage of climate change to agriculture.

Developing countries will be hit hardest by climate change and will face bigger declines in crop yields and production than industrialized countries, the study finds. The negative effects of climate change are especially pronounced in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Compared to the average biophysical effects of climate change on yields in the industrialized world, the developing countries fare worse for almost all crops.

"Agriculture is extremely vulnerable to climate change, because farming is so weather-dependent. Small-scale farmers in developing countries will suffer the most," noted Mark Rosegrant, director of IFPRI's Environment and Production Technology Division and report co-author.

"However, our study finds that this scenario of lower yields, higher prices, and increased child malnutrition can be avoided."

In addition to increased funding for rural development, IFPRI recommends more open agricultural trade to ensure that food will reach the poorest populations in times of crises.

"If governments and donors begin now to invest seriously in adaptation for poor farmers, we can avert this bleak future," said Rosegrant.

AP

Boys paddle a bathtub through a flooded street in Laguna provence, 40 kms. (25 miles) south of Manila, Philippines, Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009.

OFWs told to be involved in peace talks

By CARLO AGAMON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

KIDAPAWAN CITY, Philippines—North Cotabato Vice Gov. Manny Piñol on Thursday asked Hong Kong-based Overseas Filipino Workers to be actively involved in the peace process aimed at ending the Moro rebellion in Mindanao.

Piñol, who spoke before members of the Regional Overseas Filipino Workers Society during their second anniversary celebration, said among the things OFWs, especially those from Mindanao, should study to understand the peace process is the controversial memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain.

Piñol was one of the prime movers of the anti-MOA-AD campaign last year.

The Supreme Court eventually trashed the agreement, which would have given the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) a larger area of control.

Piñol had earlier said that had the government consulted stakeholders in Mindanao, the MOA-AD debacle would have been avoided and a more acceptable agreement would have been crafted.

He said any agreement should not only involve the national government and the MILF but it should be the product of a consensus among all stakeholders in the affected areas.

Piñol said a localized approach to Moro rebellion should be adopted because the problem "has a different complexion in each of the affected areas."

"Since our problems are unique, the solutions should be localized—do not come up with one approach for all the areas," he said.

Piñol said local leaders should be allowed to conduct local negotiations and propose local solutions "so that at the end of the whole process, the agreement that we will forge will be an agreement that really reflects the problems encountered by our people in specific areas in Southern Philippines, and not an agreement based on international experience.

TAKE CHARGE

What to do with more than one credit card

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Q: I received a pre-approved credit card in the mail from one of the banks I use. I didn't apply for one since I already have a credit card from another bank. However, this other bank just sent me one without me asking for it. Now what do I do with two credit cards?—Mary Ann

A: Banks know how hectic life can be for busy professionals like you. This is the reason your bank has sent you a pre-approved credit card—you need not apply for one anymore.

As a valued client of the bank, you have also been ascertained to meet certain criteria for credit card applications, thus you automatically received a new credit card. These criteria include character (which includes good credit history), capacity to pay (steady income and financial position), and collateral (assets which may be in your name).

Think of yourself as fortunate for having been selected to receive a pre-approved credit card. Other people have to apply for one, and not everyone who applies gets approval to receive a credit card. Another plus: usually, these pre-approved credit cards come with free annual fee for the first year. That means you will have free access to credit for one year.

Now what to do about your new additional credit card? "Credit cards make managing your money easier, and can be especially useful during emergencies," says the booklet "Use Credit Wisely," a publication of Citibank. Having another credit card is a good tool to help you separate your expenses, say household vs. personal expenses, or business vs. personal expenses. Choose which credit card you will use for household expenses, and which one for personal; or which one for business, and which one for personal expenses. With the detailed bills that the credit card companies will send you, it will then be easy to keep track of your spending and watch your budget. You won't have to scrutinize your one bill to see which charges are for your personal expenses, and the like.

With two credit cards, you will also have an easier time managing your cash flow. It will be easy to expect what bill would come on what week of the month and to ready the needed funds.

And by designating one credit card for household expenses, you will be able to pay for large expenses such as appliances and furniture on credit without affecting your credit limit for your personal or business expenses.

Lastly, by having two credit cards, you will have more access to credit, particularly cash advances. This will be helpful should emergencies arise.

Some important tips

"Credit is a big responsibility," says "Use Credit Wisely." Here are some tips to manage your two credit cards well:

■ Pay your bills promptly. Late payments will let you incur late payment charge on top of the finance charge or interest. In effect, this will make your charged purchases be even more expensive, not to mention it will have an effect on your credit history and reputation. Pay your bills promptly, before the due date if possible. As soon as you receive your bill, pencil in the due date in your calendar and make sure you settle the bill on or before the due date.

■ Keep separate files for your credit cards. Have a folder or envelope for each credit card. File charge slips, bills, and proofs of payment accordingly for easy reference later on.

■ Enroll your credit cards in your banks' phone banking and/or Internet banking facility so you can pay your bills easily from the comfort of your home or office 24/7. Make it a habit to check your credit card balances online or via the phone to ensure that no unauthorized purchases have been made using your credit cards.

■ Safeguard your credit cards at all times. Make sure that you sign at the back of your credit cards as soon as you receive them. Don't keep your credit cards lying around in your drawer, locker or cabinet. Always check to see if your credit cards are still in your wallet as some crooks have stolen credit cards from people who find out about it belatedly.

■ Do not lend your credit card to anyone else, not even people close to you. Instead, apply for a supplementary credit card for them.

■ Keep track of your budget and your credit card balances and do not charge more than you can afford. Shop carefully, prioritizing needs over wants.

At the end of the first year, you might want to continue having two credit cards after seeing the benefits they give you. Or if you prefer to consolidate all your spending in just one card, then call the other issuer immediately and request for a cancellation. Whether with one or two cards, just make sure you always use credit wisely.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Cristine safe and sound after rescue

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Cristine Reyes is thankful that she's safe and sound after being trapped on the roof of her house for 12 hours due to Typhoon "Ondoy."

"Akala ko talaga katapusan ko na," she gasped. "I never prayed so hard in my entire life. Dasal ako ng dasal na sana tumigil na ang bagyo at may mag rescue sa amin. Thank you to my brothers who saved my pamangkins and to Richard Gutierrez who risked his life to save me.

"Na-realize ko na bale wala mga material things. It's just our relationship with God that matters in the end. Second life ko na ito. So gagawin ko lahat to be better. Ngayon ligtas na ko, punta ko sa relatives ko para magbigay ng tulong."

Clueless Gabby

Gabby Concepcion is clueless about the real score between his daughter KC and Piolo Pascual. "I don't ask her because I don't want her to think nakikialam ako," he says. "I'll just wait for her to tell me." Is he in favor of Piolo for KC? "Oo naman. Mabait at palasimba."

Has KC introduced him to PJ? "Yup. Natawa ako kasi sabi ni Piolo, 'Hi sir.' Lumingon ako. Akala ko nandun si Gabby Lopez (laughs)."

No kids yet

Diether Ocampo laughs off rumors that his fab GF Rima is pregnant.

"The time will come for that," Diet clarifies. "Imagine how adorable our kids will be. She has met my son Dream. It's a cool sight to see them together. No names for our future kids yet. The wedding should come first."

'Starstruck' auditions

I immensely enjoyed watching the auditions of GMA 7's phenomenal artista search, "StarStruck V," in my "second home," Iloilo. Thousands of aspirants trooped to SM Iloilo to make pabiti (Ilonggo for show off) their stuff.

The artista wannabes gave their all in singing, dancing and acting. They also gamely answered questions of the strict auditions' master.

One applicant even flew from Canada to try his luck in the Iloilo leg of the screening.

Other contenders who caught my attention were a single mother, a tomboy and a finalist in another reality show.

There was also a guy who had two red hearts painted on his cheeks to cover scars from an earlier suicide attempt—when he tried to iron his face.

Even for just a fleeting moment, the Ilonggos/Ilonggas felt what it was like to have a few seconds of fame while onstage as their kababayans cheered them on.

StarStruck V will be hosted by Carla Abellana, Raymond Gutierrez and Dingdong Dantes.

War-freak 'Bro'

Could it be true that the actor who portrays Bro in "May Bukas Pa" got enraged when the staff of a telecoms company where he was supposed to pay his bills didn't recognize him and gave him the runaround?

The buzz is that he brought "Santino" along the next time he went to the telecoms office to prove that he's part of the show since his face is hardly shown in his scenes.

No worries

Lani Mercado remains unperturbed by Rosanna Roces' nasty Facebook comments about her husband Bong.

Trouble erupted when Osang got peeved because the Revillas didn't send back their grandchild on the designated day, among other things. "I haven't checked my Facebook," Lani told me. "But Osang has nothing to worry about. Gabs is in good hands."

Bong and Lani are too happy to be bothered by intrigues. "Bong's birthday party (last Friday) was a success," Lani said. "Among the guests were President Arroyo, Sec. Gibo (Teodoro), Sen. Jinggoy (Estrada), Philip Salvador and Lorna T. I'd rather dwell on the happy feeling the party generated in us, instead of controversies."

Cristine Reyes is thankful to Richard Gutierrez, who risked his life to save her.

What can Lani say to her detractors who are questioning her being a board member of San Miguel Corporation? "They give me a chance to prove my capabilities," she said, smiling. After all the storms she has weathered as Mrs. Bong Revilla, Lani has learned how to play it cool without turning cold.

Something's Kho-king

Since Hayden Kho has been suspended from medical practice as a result of his video sex scandal, he has ventured into culinary arts. One of his naughty gay classmates jested, "I'm willing to do it with Hayden on top of the stove." Wonder what Hayden is cooking up next. If and when he becomes a chef, will all his dishes be as sizzling hot as his videos?

Love scheme?

Could it be true that the Kris Bernal-Aljur Abrenica team-up is all for show? A studio insider insists that Kris' secret boyfriend is Carlo Aquino and Aljur's secret girlfriend is Rich Asuncion. Naturally, both camps are denying it.

Market value

The mother of a young actress refuses to let her daughter attend any show biz function if there's no money involved. As a movie scribe put it, "OA siya! Kahit sa birthday party lang imbitahin ang anak niya kailangan may talent fee!"

Loyalists

I got this touching e-mail from my good friend Louie Heredia. It couldn't have come at a better time—my mom's sixth death anniversary (September 26):

"Dolls, I was watching Cheche Lazaro's 'Probe Profiles,' which featured Ms Gina Pareño. It was Ate Luds pala who helped her get over her drug addiction, at a DARE rehab center in Loyola Heights in the '90s. "

"I never told anyone this before: My townhouse was right across DARE. From my window, I would see her many times screaming, crying and all that."

"I was so happy when I heard she was released na. Look at her today! Thanks to your mom for believing in her."

"By the way, I have never met her. I just witnessed a chapter of her life through my window. Amazing! Thank God for people like Gina and your mom in the business!"

Still together?

The staff of a lifestyle show were shocked to see Katrina Halili's pictures and posters displayed all over Kris Lawrence's pad. "Pati nga girly stuff ni Katrina nandoon pa," revealed the segment producer. "Alangan naman si Kris ang gumagamit ng Victoria's Secret (laughs)."

Kris and Kat have denied for the nth time that they have reconciled. Or perhaps they never split up even during the "Hayden Kho" episode in Kat's colorful life.

Harmless until provoked

Wilma Doesnt kept flirting with Chris Tiu during tapings of "Pinoy Records." At first, Chris was dedma to Wilma but eventually he learned to play along. Knowing Wilma, she's harmless until provoked and/or seduced.

Dolphy, Willie, Goma meet with Villar

MANILA, Philippines—Only two months away from the filing of certificates of candidacy for next year's elections, big show biz stars Dolphy, Richard Gomez and Willie Revillame were sighted dining with Sen. Manuel Villar, presidential timber, at the Manila Peninsula.

Gomez confirmed the Tuesday night meeting, saying Revillame had invited him. "You could say that it was in preparation for the May 2010 elections," said the actor.

He earlier announced his intention to run for Congress in his wife Lucy's hometown of Ormoc, Leyte. "I prepared early," Gomez told the Inquirer. "As early as March, I was laying the groundwork for my campaign."

Will he run under Villar's party? "There's nothing definite," he said. "We just discussed possibilities."

Asked if Dolphy, an industry pillar, would campaign for him, Gomez said, "We didn't talk about that."

Richard Gomez has announced his intention to run for Congress in his wife Lucy's hometown of Ormoc, Leyte.

Singer Zsazsa Padilla, Dolphy's longtime partner, said the public shouldn't speculate too much about the meeting.

Padilla explained that Dolphy and Revillame are doing a movie together for this December's Metro Manila Film Fest.

But is Dolphy running for any office under Villar? "He has made his stand clear in past interviews," Padilla said.

In a previous interview with the Inquirer, Dolphy said that he had no political plans whatsoever. "Madali ang tumakbo, pero pa'no kung manalo ako?" he said, only half in jest.

Dolphy and Gomez are known allies of former President Joseph Estrada.

Revillame, on the other hand, has been dropping hints about running in 2010. "I pray about it. I'm waiting for signs from God and from the people," he told Inquirer by phone on Wednesday. "I'd like to go around the country to feel the pulse of the people."

Revillame said Dolphy promised to support him "all the way" if he decides to run.

The TV host also hinted on a plan to make a TV commercial with Dolphy, endorsing Villar. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Dionne Warwick hopes to comfort flood-weary Manilans

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—World-renowned singer Dionne Warwick says her music is a healing instrument she hopes would somehow "be of service" to those suffering from the recent floods and who can make it to her concert Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Warwick

Speaking to the media at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Ortigas Center eight hours after arriving from the United States, Warwick, 68, wore a sky blue sports suit, aviator sunglasses and a black baseball cap.

"At this point maybe the concert is something that can take their minds off the devastation for at least an hour and a half. I hope the crisis will pass as quickly as possible and those suffering will find self-relief," Warwick said.

Now on her 48th year as a musical entertainer, Warwick said she has been averaging 200 shows annually, but would like to take it easy in 10 years. "I'm still enjoying what I do. I love to sing very much, but I'm at a point now where I'm slowing down a bit," she said.

Asked by the Inquirer if she has a special regimen to maintain her voice, Warwick replied: "The only thing you can do to keep your voice is rest. That's something not any of us in the entertainment industry ever gets enough of."

Her concert Friday night at the Big Dome also features a 12-man backing band, and a guest artist, Filipino R&B singer Jay-R.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Three

One, after Fernando Poe, Jr. died on Dec. 14, 2004, they did an inventory of his things. In one bodega, they found cartons of relief goods that were meant to be delivered to Infanta, Quezon. Infanta had been buried in mudslides a couple of weeks before his death and, along with many others, FPJ had bestirred himself to help.

With one difference: While all the other relief-givers were busy putting their names on their donations—or as in the case of many public officials, putting their names on other people's donations—FPJ was not. His people would swear later he would not hear of it. He gave strict orders for the relief goods to be unmarked and just sent where needed. It altered my view of the man completely and made me vow to make amends to his family for some of the things I had said about him.

That is class. Which makes me furious today about the politicians who want to exploit the misfortune of others for their ends. Or indeed their continuing travail, many of them having lost everything in one of the worst disasters ever to hit this metropolis. It's a sentiment I know is shared by many, even those who were not directly ravaged by the floods, as I've seen in news reports and blogs.

Heading the pack is Willie Revillame who was busy announcing that "kami nga ni Senator Villar" have been tireless in delivering relief goods to the needy. You'd think the guy would have learned a thing or two from being crucified after he vituperated about Cory's coffin being shown on his show, consequently disrupting his and his audience's fun. Clearly his chastisement hasn't chastened him enough. Or he's just fundamentally tasteless he cannot see that the last thing the victims want is to be treated like contestants, or supplicants, of "Wowowee" waiting upon his generosity.

Thankfully the tack is likely to backfire. People are in a foul mood and are not likely to remember Revillame—or his principal—with fondness come election time.

The last thing we need is to see politics mix with relief. "When you want to shoot, shoot," as Eli Wallach said in "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," finishing off the guy who was threatening him with all sorts of mayhem. Same principle here: When you want to give, give, don't advertise. All you'll get back is mayhem in the minds of the beneficiaries.

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Two, on Tuesday government's disaster council gave a briefing. They were three days late. The time to have done that was Saturday at the height of the rains. The time to have appeared in public to calm down a metropolis in the grip of panic was last Saturday. The time to have gone to the aid of people who had every reason to panic (some of them were huddling on the roofs of their houses, along with their children and their aged, pounded by unceasing rain) was last Saturday. The time to have unleashed the full resources of government, which should have been there because government has—or should have—billions of pesos in calamity and emergency funds, was last Saturday.

In fact the monumental thing that happened last Saturday was the complete absence of government. The only government there was were the media, notably ABS-CBN and GMA-7. You can forgive both for advertising their wares, or relief efforts, under the extenuating circumstances. They were the government. They were the central authority apprising the public of the situation. They were the central authority coming to the aid of the victims. They were the central authority running the country.

The Internet is full of reports that the emergency fund is depleted, having gone to fund Arroyo and company's not-very-emergency trips abroad. I'll leave that for when it's confirmed. But the breakdown of government is staggering. Arroyo should thank God, or whatever entity she worships, we have elections—the same elections she tried to monkey with earlier with Charter change. Without that she would probably not last this week, given an incensed citizenry, given an aroused citizenry, given a citizenry that will no longer brook abuse. This is as angry as I've seen residents of Metro Manila in a long time.

Three, indeed to this hour, what government we have is courtesy of the private sector where voluntarism has sprung like wildflowers. That is the bright spot in all this, the light amid the darkness, the blazing sun after the storm. Truly the Filipino rises to his finest self during trying times, the more trying the times, the finer the rising. Or it is in times of disaster that the Filipino ceases to be a disaster, thinking of others first before self.

It's especially heartening to see the kids go en masse on relief mode. Many of the kids in my neighborhood have done so, teeners who normally while away the holidays playing basketball, flipping rollerblades, and drinking beer in the stores. They've enrolled themselves to help without thought of pay, without thought of recompense, without thought of reward. Just the thought of doing something nice for a change, just the thought of doing something to make things better.

It rekindles memories of the July-August floods of 1972, when students also went in droves to places in Greater Manila no longer traversable by land, or indeed outside the metropolis where they were greeted by a greater ravaging. But then there was activism to fuel, or goad, or flagellate the youth to idealism. Well, there was also the prospect of meeting a cool chick or a cool cat while on your best form. Today, there's just spontaneous goodwill to do the trick. And the prospect of meeting a cool chick or a cool cat while on your best form. The kids come home happy, comparing the welts and bruises on their arms from lifting crates while drinking beer in the stores.

Makes you wonder what on earth you need government for.

Typhoons in history

After the deluge, I attempted to find out about friends by asking them how many animals they had in their ark. Only Gilda Cordero-Fernando had the sense of humor to reply. "Just me, my tapeworm, and my husband," she said.

Everyone knows that the word "Tagalog," described people who lived near the river (taga-ilog) and that the people of Pampanga—the Kapampangans—were people who lived near the banks of a river (pampang). Living in an archipelago resulted in many references to water and bodies of water in our languages, but our big problem is that so many of us have grown so used to land, roads and bridges that we have forgotten how to live and survive in water.

In pre-colonial times, people lived in or near the water. They were so different from us who describe the Philippines as a group of islands separated by water. In pre-Spanish times, our ancestors did not need the wheel, roads and bridges because then the islands were connected by water. In some places newborn infants were thrown into the sea or into the river so that they would recognize the taste of water from childhood. Everyone could swim and if people drowned at all, it was not because they didn't know how to swim.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I was abroad at the height of the rain and floods and only saw the images on the TV news through the Internet. I wondered why the early reports were so hysterical, adding to the panic rather than advising people to calm down and seek higher ground. Now that we are dry, the media are starting to blame people for the lack or inadequate rescue operations. But what can we do in the midst of a disaster? One wonders whether the high-pitched reporting helped make a bad situation better or worse.

In the news, I keep hearing about this being one of the worst floods in 40 years without any attribution to the source of that information. From my own childhood, I recall the wrath and destruction of Typhoon "Yoling," and another time when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights as it did in the Bible. Nobody had the good sense to build an ark and this non-stop rain was attributed to the theft of the image of the Sto. Niño de Tondo. The image was recovered and returned in a solemn procession to Tondo church by Imelda Marcos herself and, if we are to believe the story, the rain stopped. The image has not been stolen since.

If you consult the index of the 55-volume compilation of historical documents edited by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson at the turn of the last century, you will find more than half a page of references to "meteorology and meteorological phenomena." Naturally there is mention of weather as observed by the Spanish Jesuits who set up the world famous Manila Observatory in the Walled City in 1865 just to compile and analyze typhoon and earthquake data. Their work was recognized and respected in the region, although the Jesuits started with such crude instruments as a thermometer and a stick with a piece of string attached to show the direction and intensity of wind. Typhoon and weather forecasts from the Manila Observatory were relied upon in the region and the rest of the world even thought they did not have sophisticated equipment and computers as we do today.

Fr. Federico Faura, after whom Padre Faura Street in Ermita is named, was the first director of the Manila Observatory, which moved from Intramuros to Ermita and became the official Weather Bureau in 1901. The present Manila Observatory transferred to Loyola Heights, Quezon City, in 1962 and continues its research work, leaving the weather forecasting to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) which was established in 1972.

The Blair and Robertson index has historical references to: rain and floods; thunder and lightning; water spouts; rainbows; snow and ice; drought; storms (baguios, vagios, gales, hurricanes, samatras, tempests, tornadoes, typhoons, tifones, tufones, whirlwinds). Related to all these were references to shipwrecks. So there is a lot of history on storms and floods waiting to be written not just from Blair and Robertson but from the data compiled by the Jesuit Manila Observatory.

Padre Faura, his assistants, and his successors have compiled data not only from weather and earthquakes they experienced but also from historical sources like the above that give us a weather picture of the Philippines through time.

Another source for weather researchers is John Foreman who wrote in 1905:

"Commencing July 11, 1904, three days of incessant rain in Rizal Province produced the greatest inundation of Manila suburbs within living memory. Human lives were lost; many cattle were washed away; barges in the river were wrenched from their moorings and dashed against the bridge piers; pirogues were used instead of vehicles in the thoroughfares; considerable damage was done in the shops and many persons had to wade through flooded streets knee-deep in water."

Now that the wrath of Ondoy is part of our weather history, maybe we should ask ourselves what we will do with these stories. Do we just file them somewhere, or try to find a pattern that can help us understand or avoid similar tragedies in the future?

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

EDITORIAL

Embedded danger

The death of two American soldiers in Sulu last Tuesday refocuses the nation's attention on the need to revisit the Visiting Forces Agreement. The agreement has been so loosely interpreted by both the Philippine and American governments as to provide carte blanche for US forces to engage in operations never contemplated by the Senate (and the public) when it was asked to give consent for the agreement. It essentially allows the Americans to undertake military operations in tandem with members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, under the camouflage of training activities.

Our government's policy, particularly since it embarked on tying itself to the Bush administration's apron-strings after Sept. 11, then cut those strings in a panic in Iraq, has been to compensate the Americans by essentially giving them a free hand in Mindanao. This quid pro quo permits the government to eke out aid from the Americans, and our officialdom's lapses in bringing development to Muslim Mindanao in particular, where its political alliances with warlords matters more than giving our Moro brethren opportunities to improve their lives, can be compensated, at least partially, by foreign assistance.

This foreign assistance, as all assistance does, comes at a price, and the price is the abdication of much of our sovereignty and control over the security situation in Mindanao. It comes at the price of an agreement intended, officially speaking, to beef up our armed forces by giving them access to training with friendly forces. It comes at the price of a Constitution observed more in the breach by keeping a round-the-clock foreign military presence here while skirting the basic law's actual provisions on the conditions that should apply for such a presence.

The Americans have been effective in putting a lid on things, but medals and citations have been issued since the Bush administration to servicemen and officers wounded in actual encounters with rebels and terrorists in Mindanao. American troops are not sheltered in training camps or simply directing spy drones to provide intelligence to Filipino troops. Far more than will ever be officially acknowledged, there's a close coordination down to the patrol level between Filipino and American soldiers.

This makes the Americans a target for forces fighting our government's troops, and it puts US troops in many combat or near-combat situations. As the Americans focus on the offensive in Afghanistan, sympathetic groups will try to take the edge off the attacks on al-Qaida and the Taliban by mounting attacks on American troops and civilians everywhere else around the world. Unless our government begins by reexamining the VFA, this situation will only continue as an irritant in RP-US relations. It will bring back the specter of the Philippines becoming part of the front line in the confrontation between the terrorist organization and the West.

And considering the motivations of our government, it means the country is increasing its risks for all the wrong, because mainly mercenary, reasons.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Samu't Sari

SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

Jude Helgen readies to dump the load of his wheel barrel. The Dandan Neighborhood Watch boys cleaned up the Children's Park last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Palacios and Nunu Sanchez take a break after a hard day's work at the Dandan Children's Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hardworking Dandan Neighborhood watch block leader John Leon Guerrero is an expert with a leaf blower!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated birthday greetings to Mrs. Dorsha Duenas Guinto, who celebrated her birthday on Sept. 27. Much love from your family at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Dandan Neighborhood Watch Task Force rest after the hot day's work. From left, Eli Ito, Luis Aldan, Jun Boom Camacho, and Dersen Chipwelong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Pvt. Jerry T. Guerrero II, center, for completing and graduating from Basic Combat Training in Fort Jackson South Carolina, on Sept. 18, 2009. He ranked 5th in his company, the 2-60th Inf. Reg. 2nd Plt Wardawgs. Right after graduation, Pvt. Guerrero went into completing his Advance Individual Training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He is currently working on his military occupation specialty as a human resource information management specialist. He is the son of Juliana D. De la Rosa and the late Jeffrey N. Maratita of Saipan and Jerry and Michelle Guerrero of Guam. His grandparents are Antonio and Antonia De la Rosa. In this photo is the proud grandfather Antonio D. De la Rosa and proud Army mom, Juliana D. De la Rosa, taken on Sept. 18, 2009, in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTA INVESTOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shakes hands with Rota Resort & Country Club's new owner Hee Kyun Cho after the signing of a formal lease deal with the Department of Public Lands. Cho announced an initial $1 million worth of water bottling facility and a $10 million casino projects on Rota.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WINE COUNTY TOUR

The Wine Rally 10th Anniversary winners have their picture taken at Woodbridge Winery in Lodi, California. From left, Akiko Fushimo (La France Restaurant, Guam), Marc from Woodbridge Winery, Esther Allen (Leo Palace Resort, Guam) and Seiji Shindo (Hyatt Regency Saipan).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Akiko Fushimo of La France Restaurant, Guam, Seiji Shindo of Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Esther Allen of Leo Palace Resort, Guam pose at the entrance to the Woodbridge Winery estate in Lodi, California. The group is on their way to Napa to visit Opus One, Quintessa, and Sonoma county.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENERGY MONTH

As a special gift on his 60th birthday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lets Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos sign three proclamations for the CNMI Energy Awareness Month. DPW Energy Division director Thelma Inos at left looks on.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

YoungStyle

Md. sculptor puts new life into dead trees

By RAY LANE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST

Master woodcarver Jim Calder creates a giant dragon out of a dead oak tree in Takoma Park, Md. Every time Calder carves a wooden sculpture from a tree stump, he invites local kids to workshops to learn woodcarving.

WASHINGTON—"I brought two sweet potatoes," says 8-year-old Catrina Calingaert.

She stands with about a dozen other kids holding sweet potatoes. The youngsters from Silver Spring and Takoma Park in Maryland huddle around a guy with a beard who looks a little like Santa Claus. He sits low in a chair in front of a tree stump carved into the figure of a big wooden momma bear and her cub.

He's Jim Calder, master woodcarver, the artist who carved the bear after the tree died. The Carter family of Takoma Park decided that instead of chopping the tree up for firewood, they would ask Calder to carve the bear family to mark the arrival of their first child, Ben.

Every time Calder carves a wooden sculpture from a tree stump, he invites local kids to workshops to learn woodcarving. Thousands of kids and their parents and teachers all across America have joined him over the years.

"Only we use sweet potatoes, not the tree stump," said Calder, a Baltimore boy who celebrated his 61st birthday Tuesday. "They're easy to carve right now, but when sweet potatoes dry out, they get hard like wood in three days, and after a year or two, they start to get hard as a rock and can last for 300 years."

"Oh," Catrina cooed. "That's like forever."

Over the next hour or so, Calder worked with every child, including some who were very shy at first, such as 5-year-old Eleanor Cardillo. But in no time, she and big brother Massimo, 8, were crawling all over Calder and the other kids to watch the magic he works on everyone's potato.

After a quick scraping away of the skin, the pulpy-orange sweet potato inside glistened, and the smell was like an opened pumpkin. Calder gave each child a little wood awl, a tool good for making holes, and gently guided their hands as the potato was turned into a face, a bird, a fish, a flower or even a Christmas decoration.

"When you get home, paint your potato and let it dry out," Calder said. "You can give it to your grandchildren some day."

SpongeBob would give his stamp of approval

It's Oct. 1, and that means National Stamp Collecting Month has begun. Every year the U.S. Postal Service unveils new stamps in honor of the occasion, and this year it has gone to new depths for inspiration—really.

The new stamp sheet, featuring 10 first-class stamps, is a painted scene based on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in California. In an unusual twist, on Thursday the Postal Service unveiled the "Nature of America: Kelp Forest" stamp sheets underwater (using scuba divers) in a 28-foot-tall kelp forest exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. You can see the Kelp Cam at www.montereybayaquarium.org.

THE WASHINGTON POST

New stamps feature fish and sea creatures in a forest of seaweed. October is National Stamp Collecting Month.

A kelp forest is a unique undersea ecosystem created by large areas of living seaweed, the more common name for kelp. This underwater plant life provides shelter and food for many species of fish and other sea creatures.

The new stamps are part of an educational series produced by the Postal Service featuring plant and animal scenes. The kelp forest stamp sheet features 27 species, with the name of each listed on the back. ***(The Washington Post)***

Why your parents want you to eat spinach

By HOWARD BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Imagine this scenario: You've just come back from a wonderful week at the beach. While you were away, you got to eat your favorite foods: pizza at Grotto, french fries at Thrasher's and vanilla-chocolate swirl at Kohr Brothers. You've been back for two days when your mom makes chicken and mashed potatoes but spoils everything by depositing a huge mound of spinach on your plate. Although you have rejected spinach every time she has asked you to eat it, she reminds you that it's good for you because it contains lots of iron.

Well, I don't want any parents to be mad at me, but spinach is not good for you because it contains iron. It is true that spinach is loaded with iron. However, it also contains a chemical called oxalic acid. This acid chemically binds with the iron so most of it can't be absorbed from your intestinal tract. That means the iron in spinach will go in your mouth one day and exit through your bottom a few days later. You won't be able to identify it as iron (or spinach, for that matter), but take my word for it that it's still there.

Now, before any kids reading this article tell their mom or dad that Dr. Bennett says they don't need to eat spinach, I have some bad news. Spinach is good for you; it just has nothing to do with iron. The reason spinach is good for you is that it's an excellent source of vitamins A and C, fiber and other nutrients that keep you healthy. So your parents are correct in encouraging you to eat spinach; they just do it for the wrong reason.

So where did this iron lore come from regarding spinach? It's only a guess, but I suspect it has something to do with a cartoon character named Popeye the Sailor, who was created in 1929. Popeye was a strong guy with huge forearms and a corncob pipe. However, when Popeye ate a can of spinach (he did it by squeezing the can and catapulting the spinach into his mouth), he developed superhuman strength. This was presumably because of all the iron that instantly entered his body. Popeye usually needed this extra strength to deal with Bluto, who, as a bad guy, caused lots of trouble in the neighborhood.

Although the origin of Popeye's powers was clearly wrong, he was responsible for at least one amazing feat: getting kids in the past to eat the spinach that was heaped onto their dinner plates.

Howard Bennett is a Washington pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

*Bowen is the author of sports novels for kids. His books "*Touchdown Trouble*" and "*Soccer Team Upset*" have just been published.*

In playoffs, who will have the best arm?

The Major League Baseball playoffs, which begin next week, are different from the regular season. With 162 games, the baseball season is like a marathon. The best teams need lots of good pitchers and hitters to go the distance.

WORLD SERIES TRIVIA

Since 2000, eight different teams have won the World Series; only Boston has won twice.

The playoffs, in which teams play five- or seven-game series, are like a sprint. Teams with two or three top starting pitchers and a terrific relief pitcher may surprise a better team.

Think of what Cole Hamels did for the Philadelphia Phillies last October. Hamels won four games in the playoffs and helped the Phillies win the World Series.

Let's take a look at the pitching situation for each of the possible playoff teams.

American League

1. Boston Red Sox: Josh Beckett and Jon Lester give the Red Sox a tough-to-beat 1-2 for starting pitchers.

2. Detroit Tigers: Watch out for the Tigers. Justin Verlander, Edwin Jackson and 20-year-old Rick Porcello have pitched super all year.

3. New York Yankees: For a team with a great record, the Yankees do not have great starting pitching. CC Sabathia is a true ace. A.J. Burnett has a superstar arm but is unreliable. At 37 years old, Andy Pettitte may not have another great October left in him.

4. Los Angeles Angels: The Angels have one excellent starter in John Lackey, but they aren't as deep as the Red Sox or the Yankees.

5. Minnesota Twins: None of the Twins' top three starters has an earned run average less than 4.00. That's why they probably won't make the playoffs.

National League

1. St. Louis Cardinals: The Cardinals, with Adam Wainwright, Chris Carpenter and Joel Pineiro, have the best starters in the National League.

2. Philadelphia Phillies: Star lefthanders Cole Hamels and Cliff Lee give the Phillies a chance to repeat.

3. Atlanta Braves: Atlanta has terrific pitching but probably won't make the playoffs.

4. Los Angeles Dodgers: The Dodgers' starters are solid, but they don't have an experienced playoff ace.

5. Colorado Rockies: Ubaldo Jimenez has the pitches to succeed in October. But after him, the Rockies are shaky.

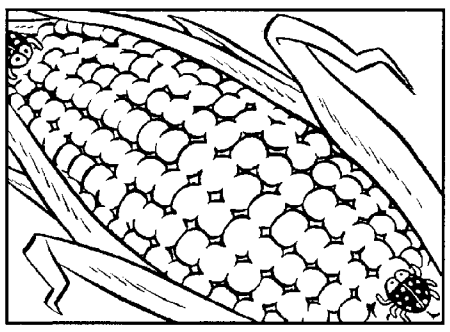
Now let's talk about closers, the relief pitchers who get the last outs in the pressure-packed playoff games.

American League

Mariano Rivera is simply the best. In 13 years of playoff appearances with the Yankees, Super Mariano has a record of eight wins and only one loss with 34 saves and an earned run average of 0.77. He gives the Yankees a big edge.

National League

The Dodgers' Jonathan Broxton is the best closer in the National League, striking out lots of batters. Brad Lidge has been a disappointment for Philadelphia, with 11 blown saves. So the defending champs may hand the ball in the late innings to three-time Cy Young award winner Pedro Martinez.



A MAIZE MAZE! Can you help this little bug find his way across this mazey ear of corn so that he can join his buddy at the other end?

Junior Whirl

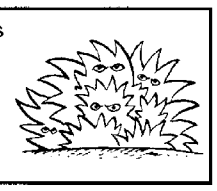
by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE FLOWERS!

Illustrated by David Coulson

N	O	I	T	A	N	R	A	C	P	N	E	A	Z
P	U	C	R	E	T	T	U	B	L	S	S	I	N
R	E	W	O	L	F	N	U	S	U	I	O	S	C
S	S	I	E	W	L	E	D	E	M	R	R	H	O
Y	L	I	L	S	U	C	S	I	B	I	H	C	S
A	Z	A	L	E	A	G	E	R	A	N	I	U	M
A	N	E	B	R	E	V	O	L	G	X	O	F	O
H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H	P	O	P	P	Y	S

HIDDEN ANIMALS! See if you can find the four animals hidden in the following three sentences.
1. At last a girl moved.
2. He made errors on purpose.
3. Well, I only got terrified out of my wits.



Answers: 1. Stag. 2. Deer. 3. Lion and otter.

Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 17 flowers. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the flowers you're looking for.

Azalea	Fuchsia	Plumbago
Buttercup	Geranium	Poppy
Carnation	Hibiscus	Rose
Cosmos	Hyacinth	Sunflower
Edelweiss	Iris	Verbena
Foxglove	Lily	

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 5 through 14 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, each vertical column, and even the four corner squares, must total 45. We've filled in six of the squares; the rest is up to you. Use trial and error – and a good eraser!

		19	3
18	4		
	21		
			20

[45]

Answers: First row: 10, 13, 19, 3. Second row: 18, 4, 9, 14. Third row: 5, 21, 11, 8. Fourth row: 12, 7, 6, 20.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was actor, senator and erstwhile presidential candidate Fred Thompson who made the following observation: "After two years in Washington, I often long for the realism and sincerity of Hollywood."

■ With an area of less than 1,000 square miles, the tiny Western European nation of Luxembourg is one of the smallest countries in the world, and it is the world's only remaining sovereign Grand Duchy. Considering the country's longstanding adherence to tradition, it is perhaps unsurprising that the national motto is "We want to remain what we are."

■ When you recycle an aluminum can, it's possible for that can to be processed, reused and back on the shelf within 60 days.

■ The skateboard was invented in California in the 1950s by surfers who wanted to continue their favorite activity even when they weren't in the water.

■ The decadence of France under Napoleon's rule is legendary, and the luxury wasn't reserved solely for people. It was not uncommon for pet dogs of the wealthy nobility to have their fur waxed and styled with hot rollers in imitation of Princess Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III.

■ Statistics show that more babies are born during the waning moon than during the waxing moon.

■ Those who study such things say that the average office desk carries 400 times more bacteria than a toilet.

■ When creating its cocoon, the silkworm spins a continuous thread more than a thousand yards long, or 12,000 times the length of its own body. To accomplish a comparable feat, a 6-foot-tall man would have to spin a thread that stretched unbroken for 15 miles.

■ You may be surprised to learn that the onion is actually a lily, botanically speaking.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men."—Roald Dahl

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● ASIAN STOCK EXCHANGES

W	H	D	A	X	O	U	D	Q	N	N	L	K	H	A
E	B	Y	V	S	M	N	P	M	J	E	H	E	B	I
Y	V	M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A	P	T	Q	O	B
L	I	G	D	L	N	I	A	R	H	A	B	B	Y	A
W	T	R	I	P	I	A	S	M	I	L	K	I	F	R
D	B	A	Y	W	H	I	W	E	U	L	T	S	Q	A
O	H	M	K	I	C	F	D	I	N	I	A	B	Z	I
T	X	W	U	S	Q	O	N	A	A	O	I	N	R	D
L	J	H	F	D	C	A	M	W	P	T	D	A	K	U
Y	W	V	T	S	Q	M	U	P	A	N	N	N	L	A
K	I	H	F	E	A	K	C	B	J	Z	I	Y	I	S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Amman	Indonesia	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Iran	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
China	Israel	Nepal	Taiwan
India	Japan	Oman	

©2009 King Features, Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

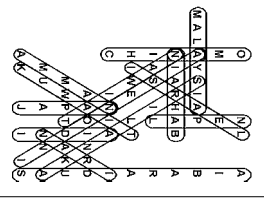
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
+		+		x	
	+		÷		4
x		+		–	
	+		x		24
17		12		22	

1 2 3 4 6 7 7 8 9

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	22		12		17
24	6	x	3	+	1
	–		+		x
4	4	÷	7	+	9
	x		+		+
11	7	+	2	÷	8

AKC can clarify dog-show rules

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read an article by a local writer about a dog show that was held here recently. The writer seemed uncertain of the rules for this type of event and left some information out. I thought that you might like to get this information on dog shows out to all of your readers as well.

All dog shows are managed by a show superintendent, who is present for the duration of the show and will answer any question regarding the appropriate rules and regulations. Further, all American Kennel Club-sponsored shows (conformation and obedience) will have free copies of the booklet Dog Show Rules at the superintendent's desk within the show location. A copy of the same can be ordered from the American Kennel Club's Web site (www.akc.org).

I'm not an AKC employee, but I've been showing dogs for quite some time and, as such, questions have arisen that needed answering then and there ... hence I learned of the availability of this booklet. Rules change from time to time, so the booklet can be a handy item to have on hand.—Jacki S., Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich.

DEAR JACKI: Many thanks, and I'm sure my readers will benefit from your information. The American Kennel Club is an important source of information about dog selection and care, show rules, breeding and many other topics. I strongly encourage dog owners—whether they are interested in participating in dog shows or just improving their knowledge of care and training—to visit the Web site above.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

'Halloween vision' masquerade

Walk into eyeglass-frame shops, and you'll likely see a promotional poster to reassure you that their glasses will enhance your look. I remember an ad that went something like this—"A face is like a work of art and should have a great frame." I have to agree, especially at Halloween, when adults and kids want a quick, artsy masquerade for a party or a last-minute trick-or-treat costume. But you don't need to purchase frames for this idea. Just scout around for old pairs of sunglasses or find cheap plastic frames in your kids' dress-up box. You'll also need craft items and a bottle of household glue.

So what's your "vision" for a character you'd like to be? Here are ideas to get you started for last-minute one-of-a-kind looks for all ages:

BIRD GLASSES

Glue craft feathers in bright colors around the top outside edges of the glasses. Glue more feathers on some twine or yarn, then attach to the rims and let them dangle.

DINOSAUR OR IMAGINATIVE CREATURE GLASSES

Draw a wacky reptile-like forehead design on thick green or brown craft foam sheet or poster board. Add scales with markers. Glue to the top rim of a pair of matching-color glasses.

CLOWN GLASSES

Glue a big pom-pom to the bridge. Decorate the top of the rim with star-shape stickers or cut out your own from foam sheets using tiny star cookie cutters for a pattern.

GOOF-OFF GLASSES

Find silly items to decorate the entire frame. Black-and-white googly eyes make for a funny look anyone can wear.

***Note:** When decorating the glasses, be sure items don't obscure your vision.*

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Autopsy shocker: Jackson was healthy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's arms were covered with punctures, his face and neck were scarred and he had tattooed eyebrows and lips, but he wasn't the sickly skeleton of a man portrayed by tabloids, according to his autopsy report obtained by The Associated Press.

In fact, the Los Angeles County coroner's report shows Jackson was a fairly healthy 50-year-old before he died of an overdose. His 136 pounds were in the acceptable range for a 5-foot-9 man. His heart was strong with no sign of plaque buildup. And his kidneys and most other major organs were normal.

Still, Jackson had health issues: arthritis in the lower spine and some fingers, and mild plaque buildup in his leg arteries. Most serious was his lungs, which the autopsy report said were chronically inflamed and had reduced capacity that might have left him short of breath.

However, according to the document, the lung condition was not serious enough to be a direct or contributing cause of death.

"His overall health was fine," said Dr. Zeev Kain, chairman of the anesthesiology department at the University of California, Irvine, who reviewed a copy of the autopsy report for the AP. "The results are within normal limits."

Kain was not involved in the autopsy. The full autopsy report has not been released publicly, but the AP obtained a copy.

Jackson died at his rented Los Angeles mansion June 25 after his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, administered the anesthetic propofol and two other sedatives to get the chronic insomniac to sleep, court documents state. Propofol, normally a surgical anesthetic used in operating rooms, acts as a respiratory depressant and requires constant monitoring,

AP

In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

Murray told police he left the room to use the bathroom and phone records show he also made calls for 47 minutes around the time Jackson encountered problems. When Murray realized Jackson was unresponsive, he began frantic efforts to revive him, but Jackson never regained consciousness and was declared dead at the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center.

The coroner's office announced last month that Jackson's death was a homicide caused by "acute propofol intoxication," with the other sedatives listed as a contributing factor. They said the standard of care for administering propofol was not met and the recommended equipment for patient monitoring, precision dosing and resuscitation was missing.

Murray is the target of what Los Angeles police term a manslaughter investigation. The decision on criminal charges will come from the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. Murray has been interviewed twice by police.

Tyminski top Bluegrass male vocalist for 4th time

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Dan Tyminski was voted male vocalist of the year for the fourth time Thursday night at the 20th annual International Bluegrass Music Awards.

Tyminski , who also won the award in 2001, 2002 and 2003, thanked his band members.

"I couldn't ask for a better bunch of guys," he said, battling loss of voice on bluegrass' biggest night.

In another early award presentation, Dailey & Vincent won vocal group of the year.

About 20 other awards were being presented at the Ryman Auditorium, with comedian/actor Steve Martin up for six honors. He said before the show it would feel like the Academy Awards to win something.

Martin was a finalist for instrumental recorded performance, recorded event (for two songs, "Daddy Played the Banjo" and "The Crow"), banjo player of the year, best liner notes and best graphic design for a recorded project.

"I'll be excited. It could be better than an Oscar," said Martin, who has hosted the Oscars and won an Emmy award for his comedy writing and Grammy awards for music and comedy.

Martin's first music album, "The Crow: New Songs for the Five-String Banjo," has topped the bluegrass chart this year.

Tyminski, a guitarist and singer, and his band had nine nominations including entertainer of the year. The duo Dailey & Vincent had seven.

Tyminski is a member of Alison Krauss' group Union Station, but he had time away from the band in recent months as Krauss was busy working with Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant.

Joining Tyminski as finalists for entertainer of the year were Dailey & Vincent, The Grascals, Del McCoury and Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out.

As announced previously, The Dillards and The Lonesome Pine Fiddlers were inducted into the IBMA Hall of Fame. The Dillards were the Darlins on "The Andy Griffith Show," and The Lonesome Pine Fiddlers became pioneers as the first bluegrass band signed to the RCA Victor label in the late 1950s.

Kathy Mattea and the band Hot Rize were hosts of the show.

Winners were chosen by the 2,500 members of the Nashville-based International Bluegrass Music Association.

The show was not televised but was broadcast on satellite radio to more than 300 U.S. markets and 14 foreign networks.

Kanye West and Lady Gaga tour canceled

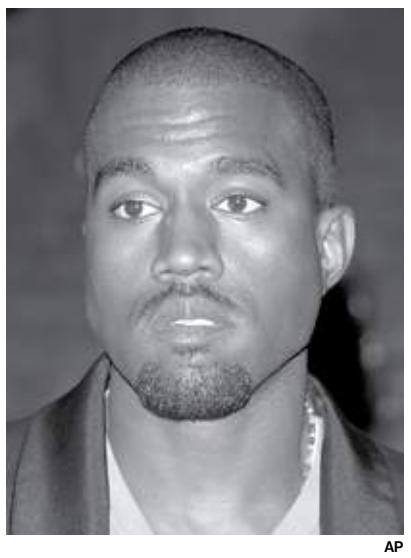
NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West and Lady Gaga's highly anticipated tour is over before it even began.

Just days after announcing dates for an ambitious joint show that was to kick off next month, the tour was canceled.

Live Nation announced the news in a brief statement Thursday that did not offer any explanation. Refunds are available for those who brought tickets for the tour. It was to kick off Nov. 10 in Phoenix and was scheduled to run through at least January.

The name of the tour was to be "Fame Kills"—a sentiment West may have been feeling in recent weeks. The Grammy-winning rapper has endured a firestorm of negative publicity since he hijacked the award-winning moment of country-pop sweetheart Taylor Swift at last month's MTV Video Music Awards.

Swift had made history as the first country act to win at the VMAs, and was giving her acceptance speech after nabbing a trophy for best female video. West—who has a long history of awards-show meltdowns—grabbed the microphone and declared that Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" was one of the "best videos of all time."



AP

In this April 21, 2009 file photo, Rapper Kanye West attends the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival Vanity Fair party in New York.

A crushed Swift did not finish her speech then but did later when Beyonce brought her back on stage after winning video of the year.

West endured boos from the celebrity crowd that night, and the negative reaction kept growing—even President Barack Obama was caught calling him a "jackass" during remarks to reporters that the White House believed were off-the-record.

An almost tearful West gave one of three apologies for his behavior during the premiere of "The Jay Leno Show" last month. He said that hadn't fully taken time to grieve for his mother, who died suddenly in November 2007, and hinted that a break would be coming.

"So many celebrities, they never take the time off," he said. "I've never taken the time off to really—you know, just music after music and tour after tour. I'm just ashamed that my hurt caused someone else's hurt. My dream of what awards shows are supposed to be, 'cause, and I don't try to justify it because I was just in the wrong. That's period. But I need to, after this, take some time off and just analyze how I'm going to make it through the rest of this life, how I'm going to improve."

But shortly after that, the "Fame Kills" tour—which had been in the works for months—was announced.

Publicists for both West and Lady Gaga did not immediately return requests for comment. A representative for Live Nation said there was no further information.

Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa on respirator

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa was in critical condition Thursday, breathing on a respirator after suffering liver, kidney, heart and breathing problems. Her son said it's a time for prayer.

"I think it's a moment for prayer, for those of us who are believers," Matus Sosa said. "And for those who aren't, I ask you to show some strength, because positive thinking exists."

Sosa's condition "has progressively worsened due to heart failure and breathing problems," said the statement from Trinidad Clinic in the Argentine capital's Palermo neighborhood. Family members of the singer thanked doctors for their "concern and discretion" in the same statement.

"I'm absolutely sure that mom is doing everything possible to come out of this," he added. "She has lived fully her 74 years," he said. "She's done everything she wanted, and never had any barrier or fear. She has lived a very full life, and a painful one."

Argentine Health Minister Juan Manzur also visited her in the clinic. He said doctors have done "everything medically possible" and that the only thing left is to hope she'll improve over time.

"Unfortunately, we don't have good news," singer Victor Heredia, a close friend, said earlier Thursday. "These things we imagine may come at some faraway time and place. But wen they come suddenly, it's devastating to me."

"I was with her the day before yesterday, and apart from her delicate situation, she was absolutely lucid," Heredia told Radio 10.

The 74-year-old "Voice of Latin America was hospitalized 12 days ago, but on Thursday her temperature rose and she had to be put on an artificial respirator.

Sosa was nominated last month for three Latin Grammy awards for her latest album "Cantora 1," in which she sings classic folk songs along with other Latin American stars including Shakira, Fito Paez, Gustavo Cerati, Julieta Venegas, Joan Manuel Serrat, Joaquin Sabina, Lila Downs and Calle 13.

The awards will be presented on Nov. 5 in Las Vegas.

Sosa has recorded more than 70 albums. Her signature song is "Gracias a la vida," or "Thanks to Life."

Letterman says he was target of extortion attempt

DA says case against Polanski not vindictive

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County's top prosecutor said Thursday that his office isn't persecuting Roman Polanski, but is merely trying to resolve a case delayed by the director's flight from the country in 1978.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley declined to speculate on what sentence his office might seek if and when Polanski is returned to Los Angeles. The "Chinatown" director was arrested in Switzerland on Saturday and is challenging extradition to the United States.

Cooley deflected criticism that has been leveled by French officials and some of Hollywood's elite that continuing to press the case against Polanski is vindictive. "I don't persecute anybody and it's a matter of court processes being concluded," Cooley said. "There's a Superior Court bench warrant outstanding, it's been executed and there will be further court proceedings."

While Polanski's case has brought impassioned pleas for his release from French officials and Hollywood elite, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he shouldn't expect special treatment.

AP

In this image originally provided by CBS, David Letterman appears on the "Late Show with David Letterman," in this Oct. 8, 2007, file photo, in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Letterman acknowledged on Thursday's show that he had sexual relationships with female employees and that someone tried to extort him over the affairs.

During the taping of his CBS late-night show in New York, Letterman discussed receiving a threat to either pay $2 million or risk the relationships being made public.

In a release from the show's producer, Letterman said he referred the matter to the Manhattan district attorney's office and that an investigation ended in an arrest Thursday. Letterman did not identify the person he said was arrested.

As part of the case, Letterman said in a release that he testified before a grand jury and acknowledged sexual relationships with members of his staff.

CBS spokesman Chris Ender says "Letterman's comments on the broadcast tonight speak for themselves."

Travolta attorney says he warned Bahamas defendant

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A lawyer for John Travolta testified Thursday that he warned a former Bahamas senator she would not get away with an alleged scheme to extort $25 million from the movie star, and even wore a wire to secretly record their conversations.

Attorney Michael McDermott said the defendant, Pleasant Bridgewater, contacted him by telephone and demanded the money on behalf of a paramedic who had treated the actor's 16-year-old son, Jett, following a seizure that led to his death.

The pair allegedly threatened to go to the media with a consent form that the actor signed to have his autistic son taken to an airport and flown to the U.S. for treatment. Travolta later changed his mind and Jett died at a local hospital Jan. 2.

Bridgewater and the paramedic, Tarino Lightbourne, have pleaded not guilty to extortion charges at the trial that began Sept. 21. McDermott said he told Bridgewater, a former Bahamas senator who allegedly negotiated with the actor's lawyers for the medic, during the Jan. 12 phone conversation that she was committing a crime.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jon Gosselin says he wants his kids off TLC show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The father of the children on "Jon & Kate Plus 8" says it's "not healthy" for his kids to continue appearing on the TLC reality show. Jon Gosselin says he had "an epiphany one day" and realized his 5-year-old sextuplets and 8-year-old twins shouldn't be filmed at the family's Pennsylvania home while their parents are going through a divorce. He went on to say that he wants to become friends with his estranged wife and "figure out our marriage." "We know we're not going to be husband and wife anymore, but we're always going to be mom and dad," Gosselin said during an hourlong interview on "Larry King Live" Thursday. Gosselin repeatedly said he's made mistakes "and I have to learn from them." TLC says it has shut down the filming after receiving a cease-and-desist order from Gosselin.

Ski resort sets helmet rule after Richardson death

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Six months after actress Natasha Richardson died following a fall at the Mount Tremblant ski resort in Quebec, the company that operates the facility has announced helmet requirements at its North American resorts. Vancouver-based Intrawest said Thursday it will recommend all skiers and snowboarders wear helmets when the ski season begins in a few weeks. Richardson, the 45-year-old wife of actor Liam Neeson, died in March after falling during a skiing lesson and suffering a head injury at Mount Tremblant. Intrawest operates nine ski resorts including Winter Park, Copper Mountain, and Steamboat Ski & Resort in Colorado; Stratton in Vermont; Snowshoe Mountain in West Virginia; Mountain Creek in New Jersey; Mount Tremblant in Quebec; Panorama Mountain near Invermere, British Columbia; and Whistler Blackcomb, which will host alpine events for the 2010 Winter Games.

Del Toro urges Puerto Rico to nix monkey facility

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Benicio del Toro is asking Puerto Rico to halt a planned monkey-breeding facility, arguing the primates would suffer "extreme animal abuse." In a letter to Gov. Luis Fortuno, the Puerto Rico-born actor says the Mauritius-based company Bioculture's facility would be cruel. It would supply monkeys to pharmaceutical companies for research. Fortuno's office and Bioculture did not immediately return calls seeking comment Thursday. Bioculture community coordinator Jacinto Rivera Solivan previously said the Guayama facility would be run humanely. Del Toro won a supporting actor Oscar for his role in "Traffic" and starred in last year's "Che," a biopic of Latin American revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Newark mayor ups the ante on comic Conan O'Brien

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The mayor of New Jersey's largest city has raised the stakes in his facetious feud with "Tonight Show" host Conan O'Brien, saying the late-night comic is now banned from the state. A video of Newark Mayor Cory Booker posted Thursday on YouTube is Booker's latest response to O'Brien's mockery of his city. It comes after a two-minute segment Wednesday night by O'Brien, who pretended to extol Newark's virtues while showing images of urban neglect. A reference to its arts scene was accompanied by a graffiti-covered wall. The exchange began last week with O'Brien joking that the city's new health care program consisted of a bus ticket out of Newark. Booker responded Tuesday with a YouTube video "banning" O'Brien from Newark Liberty International Airport.

Palin cover unveiled

NEW YORK (AP)—You know the title, now see the cover of Sarah Palin's "Going Rogue." The former Alaska governor's memoir, a top-seller online weeks before publication, will feature an outdoor shot of Palin, wearing an American flag pin on her red fleece top, eyes turned slightly from the camera as she smiles confidently into the horizon, a patchwork of Alaska blue sky and clouds behind her. The image was released Thursday by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins. The book, originally planned for next spring, is coming out Nov. 17 with an announced first printing of 1.5 million copies. Palin and collaborator Lynn Vincent finished "Going Rogue" just two months after Palin's resignation as governor.

Princess Diana exhibit to open in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A traveling museum exhibit about the life of Princess Diana will open in Philadelphia on Friday. The exhibit "Diana: A Celebration" is at the National Constitution Center through Dec. 31. It explores her childhood, her engagement to Prince Charles, their 1981 wedding and her life and work as a humanitarian. Diana's marriage to Prince Charles ended in divorce in 1996. She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris. The National Constitution Center is a private museum dedicated to developing a greater understanding of the U.S. Constitution and providing a forum for civic events. Its temporary exhibits have explored other subjects, including baseball and the life of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Insomnia is putting a strain on sleep-deprived couple

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Simon," for a year and a half. He's a good person, but my problem is I suffer from insomnia and have a hard time staying asleep. It is extremely frustrating—not to mention lonely—lying in the dark. I start to think about crazy things and it scares me.

If it gets really bad I wake Simon up, but he doesn't understand. He starts going off on me for waking him, to the point that I'm reduced to tears. Then he goes back to sleep.

What should I do? This is a disorder that is going to be with me for some time. Simon doesn't seem to care despite my numerous attempts to explain it to him. I know people hate being awakened from a sleep, but he's my significant other. Isn't he supposed to help me out?

ANXIOUS IN ANCHORAGE

DEAR ANXIOUS: Of course he should. However, because he is either unwilling or unable to offer the emotional support you need to help you through your night terrors, you are going to have to help yourself. That's why I'm recommending you talk to your physician about a referral to the nearest sleep disorder clinic. You need to understand and overcome whatever is keeping you up, because both you and Simon need a good night's sleep to remain healthy and effective during the daytime.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I are being married in about a month. Some friends in another country (who don't speak English) offered to design and give us our rings as a wedding gift. They asked whether we wanted white or yellow gold, and we specified white or a combination of both—but not yellow by itself.

Yellow gold is what my parents used to wear—and they had a terrible relationship and an even worse divorce.

The rings arrived and they are beautiful, but they are yellow gold! I'm assuming something was lost in translation. I know a marriage isn't about the rings, but I had my heart set on wearing ones unlike my parents'.

I don't think anything can be done at this point, and I don't want to raise an objection about such a generous gift. Have you any words of wisdom to help me overcome my hang-ups and this silly feeling of disappointment?

FEELING SHALLOW IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA

DEAR FEELING SHALLOW: Your parents had a rotten marriage, but their rings had nothing to do with it. We create our own symbols and attach meaning to them. Instead of allowing the gold rings to remind you of your parents' unhappiness, why not let them serve as a reminder of what's important in a marriage so you won't make the same mistakes they did? And if that doesn't work, consult a jeweler about having them plated.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude to put salt on your food before you have even tried it? My husband was terribly offended when I blurted out, "Try it before you season it!"

NADINE IN ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR NADINE: Yes, it is rude. And it's interesting that your husband became so defensive, because usually it's the person who cooked the dish who is offended. The polite thing to do is to first taste the item before deciding to correct the seasoning.

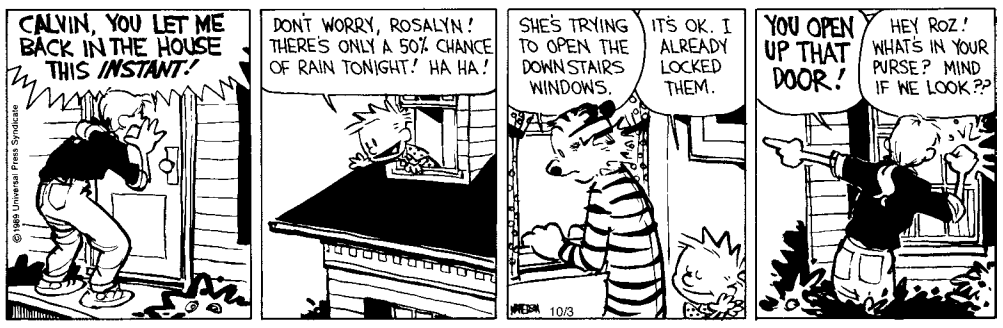
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

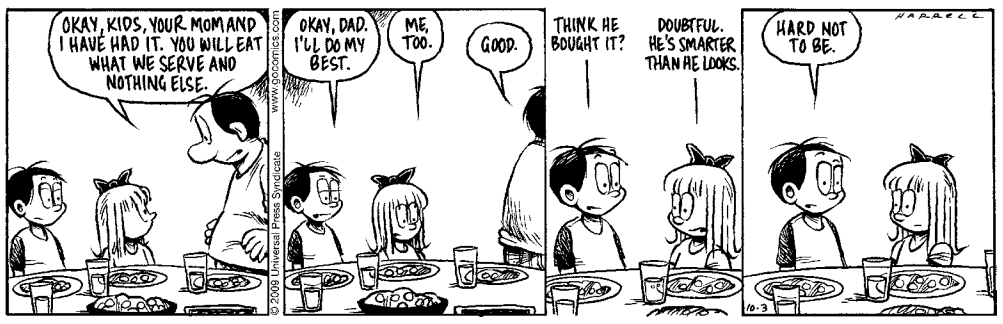

CALVIN, YOU LET ME BACK IN THE HOUSE THIS INSTANT!
DON'T WORRY, ROSALYN! THERE'S ONLY A 50% CHANCE OF RAIN TONIGHT! HA HA!
SHE'S TRYING TO OPEN THE DOWNSTAIRS WINDOWS.
IT'S OK. I ALREADY LOCKED THEM.
YOU OPEN UP THAT DOOR!
HEY ROZ! WHAT'S IN YOUR PURSE? MIND IF WE LOOK??
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
10/3

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

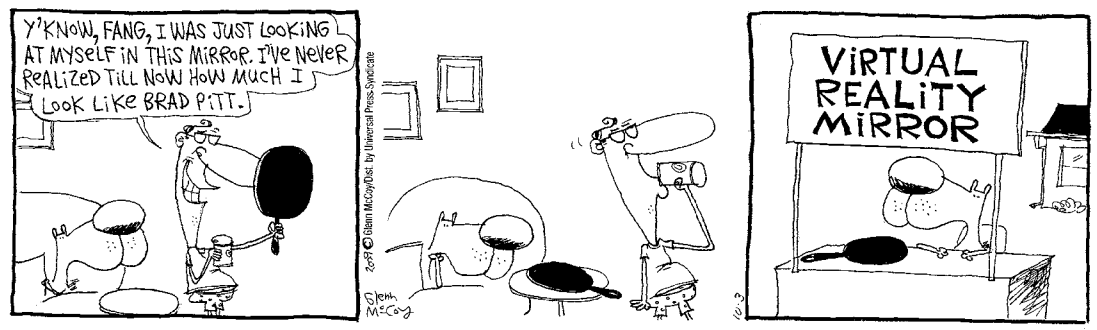
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, KIDS, YOUR MOM AND I HAVE HAD IT. YOU WILL EAT WHAT WE SERVE AND NOTHING ELSE.
OKAY, DAD. I'LL DO MY BEST.
ME, TOO.
GOOD.
THINK HE BOUGHT IT?
DOUBTFUL. HE'S SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS.
HARD NOT TO BE.
HARRELL
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
10-3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Y'KNOW, FANG, I WAS JUST LOOKING AT MYSELF IN THIS MIRROR. I'VE NEVER REALIZED TILL NOW HOW MUCH I LOOK LIKE BRAD PITT.
VIRTUAL REALITY MIRROR
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy
10/3

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

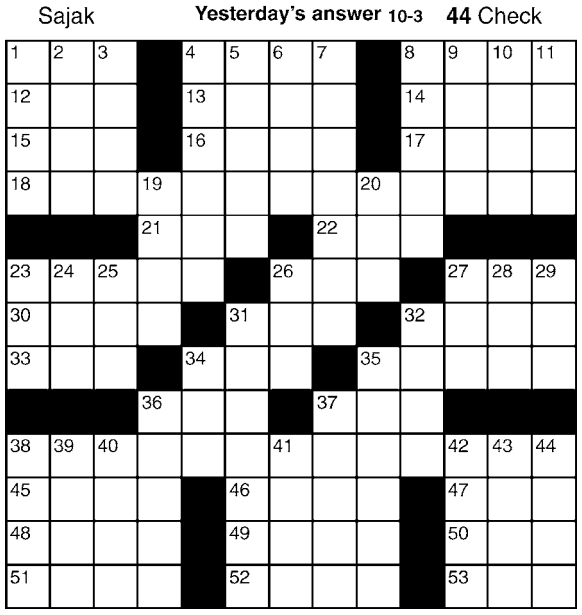
ACROSS
1 Young fellow
4 Honey bunch?
8 Slow-boil
12 Past
13 Carry on
14 Head light?
15 Expert
16 Pennsylvania port
17 As well
18 Integral component
21 "Monty Python" opener
22 Seek restitution
23 Early Christmas gift
26 "Family Guy" network
27 Weeding tool
30 Libertine
31 Family
32 Finished
33 Bottom line
34 Main ingredient in lipstick
35 Purchase from Pat Sajak
36 Rowing need
37 Author Fleming
38 Repair bill itemization
45 Settled down
46 Rembrandts, e.g.
47 Engage in downsizing
48 Venetian magistrate
49 Dandling site
50 Muumuu accessory
51 Cauterize
52 Hearing things?
53 Hostel

DOWN
1 Reindeer herder, probably
2 Taj Mahal city
3 Entrance
4 Aspiration
5 Deserves
6 Oklahoma city
7 Hamlet, to Claudius
8 Portion
9 Body powder
10 Otherwise
11 Cashmere, e.g.
19 Ersatz swing
20 Vb. type
23 Dalloway or Doubtfire
24 Golden Rule ender
25 Bacardi product
26 Predicament
27 "Explain this"
28 Dollar
29 Conger, for one
31 Bar entertainment, often
32 Spanish lady's address
34 Existed
35 3/4 time concert pieces (Fr.)
36 Playful water critter
37 Sluggard
38 Cushions
39 Burn soother
40 Latvia's capital
41 15th-century ship
42 Island near Java
43 The yoke's on them
44 Check

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	R	I		S	P	A		V	O	I	L	A
K	I	M		E	E	L		O	F	T	E	N
U	S	A		P	L	A	N	T	F	O	O	D
L	O	G		T	H	R	E	E				
K	N	O	W		A	M	I		W	O	R	E
			O	H	M		L	L	A	N	O	S
A	T	A	R	I			E	L	E	C	T	
F	O	L	K	S	Y		R	A	T			
T	O	P	S		E	M	U		Z	O	O	M
			S	L	I	D	E		C	R	Y	
F	A	C	E	P	L	A	N	T		H	A	T
U	V	U	L	A		M	E	N		E	T	H
N	E	E	D	Y		I	R	A		R	E	S

Yesterday's answer 10-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashlee Simpson, 25; Erik von Detten, 27; India.Arie, 34; Neve Campbell, 36

Happy Birthday: You'll be pulled in several directions this year. Don't give up something you want or you may not be given a second chance. There is no time to waste getting upset over something or someone you cannot change. Have confidence in who you are and what you can do and people will recognize what you have to offer. Your numbers are 10, 19, 22, 27, 33, 36, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't get into hot water by speaking your mind and giving ultimatums. You may need to make changes but be considerate of the people your decisions affect. Consider an open discussion to appease everyone. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Possessions and cash will go missing quickly. A deal of a lifetime may be tempting but, instead, put your cash into your home and family. A job you want is likely to become available. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be drawn to frivolous acts and impulsive purchases. Being too generous to win acceptance will work initially but will leave you short of cash and hurting emotionally. Don't settle for less or give away too much. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be too hard on the ones you love. Listening is an art that may not be easy to master when you see the ones you care for making mistakes. You can invest time in your surroundings, education or a small business you've wanted to start. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Spending money you don't have will take its toll. Trying to appease everyone by being the hero will not cut it when you are left alone to deal with matters responsibly. Don't be afraid to ask for help. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your emotions under control and everything will run smoothly. It's playing the game honestly but well that will lead to your success. Make time for friends who have the same interests. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Secrets may be kept from you right now. Don't pry; someone is likely trying to surprise you. An emotional twist in your day will start you thinking about long-term prospects. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a break, have some fun and remember what it's like to be stress-free. You can sort through some of the confusion at home by setting guidelines and a budget. Someone will offer you a deal or insight into how you can make one of your dreams come true. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A poor choice will influence relationships and cause unrest at home. On the bright side, you do need to revamp your space and lay out a plan for the future. Keep your thoughts to yourself until you have something tangible in place for all to see. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll face some emotional turmoil if you deny someone who is used to getting everything. Don't back down, even if it means you will spend the day alone. You have other things to occupy your time and opportunities to consider that will help you financially, legally or physically. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have to put a price on what you have to offer or you will devalue your services. Don't let someone from your past bully you. Fight for equality, justice and peace of mind. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You've got what it takes to mesmerize onlookers with your stamina and courage. Challenge yourself physically and you will be impressed by the results you get. Pursue someone whose attention you've been trying to get and you will be successful. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are exciting and imaginative. You have common sense and are stable and diplomatic. You are sensitive to what others think. *Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6					7
				5			6	
		7	3	1		9		
1		2						
	9	3				2	1	
						3		4
		1		2	8	4		
	6			7				
3					4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	1	9	7	8	5	6	4
8	4	7	6	5	1	3	9	2
6	5	9	3	2	4	7	8	1
5	1	8	2	4	3	6	7	9
4	3	2	7	6	9	1	5	8
7	9	6	1	8	5	2	4	3
1	7	5	4	9	2	8	3	6
2	6	4	8	3	7	9	1	5
9	8	3	5	1	6	4	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/02

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FARRAH FAWCETT (1947-2009) **Solution: 6 letters**

H	Y	D	N	A	S	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S
T	O	R	I	K	C	E	H	C	R	U	H	C	A	L
I	H	T	O	C	T	A	E	S	W	A	T	W	J	A
M	U	E	E	T	O	E	B	T	R	R	H	A	A	I
S	T	M	D	L	S	N	X	L	A	E	C	R	M	C
N	T	A	E	A	E	N	I	A	E	K	N	H	E	R
Y	O	R	V	W	T	E	G	C	S	L	E	O	S	E
L	N	S	L	S	S	I	M	O	O	A	R	L	L	M
C	L	H	O	U	A	H	N	A	P	T	F	T	R	M
A	I	A	S	I	P	S	O	G	J	S	S	O	U	O
J	F	L	E	T	H	T	L	W	G	O	M	N	L	C
T	E	L	R	N	T	A	D	U	P	A	R	E	T	Ⓜ
S	D	O	C	T	O	R	S	A	N	O	M	S	R	Ⓛ
O	R	E	D	M	O	N	D	L	E	G	S	E	A	Ⓘ
H	A	I	R	S	T	Y	L	E	G	R	E	B	A	Ⓕ

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 10/3

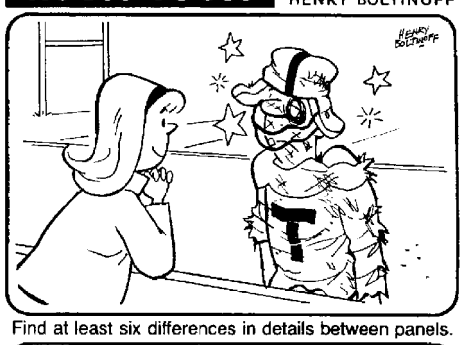
Andy, Apostle, Cable, Charlie, Check, Church, Commercials, Doctors, Faberge, Film, French, Hairstyle, Host, Hotel, Hutton, Iconic, Jackson, Jaclyn, James, Kate, Lawsuit, Lee Majors, Life, Lung, Marshall, Munroe, O'Neal, Pose, Read, Redmond, Resolve, Roman, Sacrifices, Show, Smith, Stalker, Star, Story, SWAT, Texas, The Dating Game, Toothpaste, Ultra, Warhol

Yesterday's Answer: Meditation

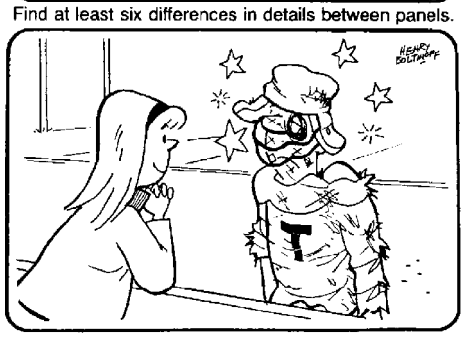
Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Letter on jersey is smaller. 2. Girl's hair is different. 3. Crossbar is missing. 4. Star is added. 5. Stripe on hat is missing. 6. Girl's collar is different.

Wishing Well®

3	6	3	8	6	5	4	3	4	2	4	7	2
A	E	P	D	M	L	E	P	V	J	E	L	O
4	6	4	6	2	8	3	4	8	7	8	7	2
N	P	T	H	B	E	L	F	P	O	E	O	S
3	8	4	7	6	2	7	5	2	3	7	8	6
A	N	U	K	A	E	F	I	C	U	O	D	S
7	8	4	3	8	5	6	3	4	3	4	8	6
R	O	L	S	N	F	I	E	M	F	E	O	Z
8	3	4	3	6	8	3	5	4	5	8	4	6
T	O	E	R	E	H	Y	E	T	I	E	I	G
5	7	4	6	3	6	8	6	4	5	3	2	6
M	W	N	O	O	A	R	L	G	P	U	U	S
8	7	5	7	5	7	2	5	2	5	2	5	2
S	A	R	R	O	D	R	V	I	E	T	S	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Super Crossword

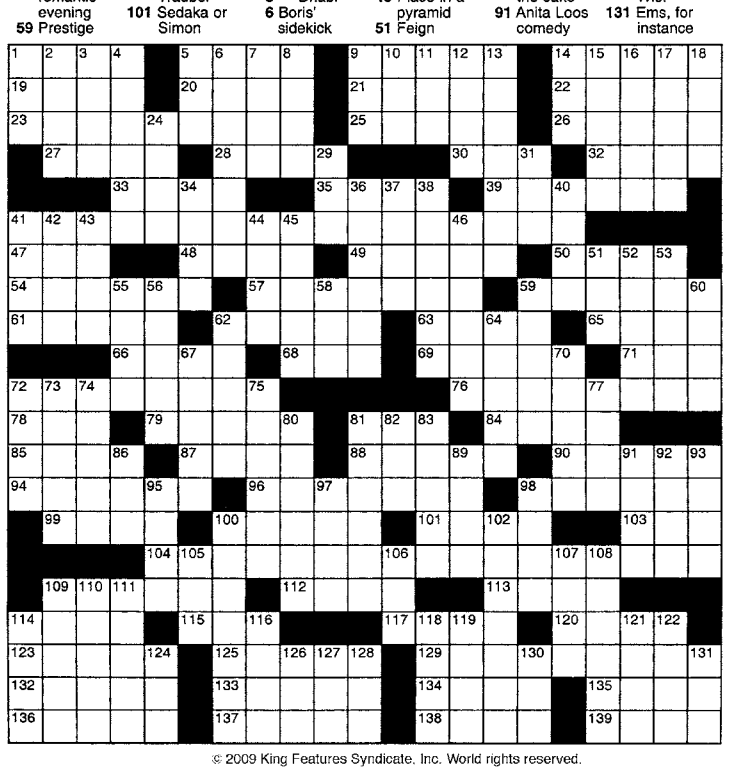
BATHING BRUTEY

ACROSS

1 Not fem.
5 Egyptian symbol
9 "Frederica" composer
14 Disconcert
19 University ordeal
20 Source of ruin
21 Wear down
22 Mythical sorceress
23 Start of a remark
25 Sherpa site
26 Canvas cover?
27 Safecracker
28 Part of D.A.
30 Farrow or Sara
32 Cincinnati nine
33 Author Leon
35 Canyon sound
39 Novel by 33 Across
41 Part 2 of remark
47 "— the land of the free . . ."
48 Drac's wrap
49 Coeur d'—, ID
50 Singer Vikki
54 Scarcity
57 Like a romantic evening
59 Prestige
61 Metallic mixture
62 A hand to the foot
63 Pigeon kin
65 Shakespearean infinitive
66 — Major
68 Mil. base
69 Wrong
71 Verdi's "La Forza — Destino"
72 Part 3 of remark
76 Part 4 of remark
78 Velvet feature
79 Terrier tether
81 "Pygmalion" monogram
84 "King Kong" star
85 Mr. Kadiddlehopper
87 Rudner or Gam
88 — lazuli
90 Fit for a king
94 Solidify
96 Unpredictable
98 Where to find a fennec
99 Be brazen
100 Soprano Traubel
101 Sedaka or Simon
103 Vapor
104 Part 5 of remark
109 Very long-lasting job?
112 Arizona city
113 Sitarist Shankar
114 Siamese
115 Even so
117 Mrs. Zeus
120 Dutch export
123 Merits
125 Lighthouse or minaret
129 End of remark
132 Cropped up
133 Po land
134 Convent cubicle
135 Clout a cad
136 "Haystacks" artist
137 Publisher Nast
138 Rain hard?
139 "Cheerio!"

DOWN

1 Miss Piggy's pronoun
2 Bunch of battalions
3 Manuscript enc.
4 Become blocked
5 — Dhabi
6 Boris' sidekick
7 It may be square
8 Bulk
9 Actor Cariou
10 Archaic preposition
11 Spring
12 TV's "— 12"
13 Assist
14 Current unit
15 Schnauzer feature
16 "Farewell, Francois!"
17 Transmits
18 Bartholomew Cubbins' problem
24 Grimm creature
29 Evergreen tree
31 Bunyan's whacker
34 Yen
36 Horoscopes
37 "— Have to Go" ('60 hit)
38 Silverware city
40 Marineland performer
41 Bar supply
42 Loaf part
43 Inland sea
44 Lhasa —
45 Grand — National Park
46 Place in a pyramid
51 Feign
52 Valerie Harper sitcom
53 Insurgent
55 Decisive defeat
56 Alpine area
58 Gentle — lamb
59 Composer Franck
60 Relate
62 Iranian religion
64 Opinions
67 Draconian
70 Boa, but not cobra
72 Foot part
73 Wingdings
74 "Tommy" or "Tannhauser"
75 Treasure
77 Martha of "Some Came Running"
80 "Spanish —" ('61 song)
81 Thyroid and pituitary
82 Horror film extra
83 Book part
86 "ER" staffers
89 Completes the cake
91 Anita Loos comedy
92 "— may look on a king"
93 Switch
95 Ferrara first family
97 Actor Enriquez
98 Kruger or Reville
100 Doctrine doubter
102 Haifa native
105 "Yo!"
106 "Yay!"
107 At any time
108 Most sweeping
109 Cugat consort
110 Composer Copland
111 Salon solution
114 Jets, Mets, or Nets
116 Dorothy's dog
118 Impress
119 Big bird
121 Auel heroine
122 Potatoes' partner
124 Arrange type
126 Pallid
127 Yore
128 Bread or booze
130 Neighbor of Wis.
131 Ems, for instance



© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

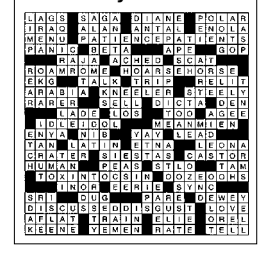
1. GEOGRAPHY: On which of the Japanese islands would you find Mount Fuji?
2. FAMOUS PEOPLE: What did gangster Al Capone die of?
3. MOVIES: What 1980s movie featured characters named Westley, Buttercup and Inigo Montoya?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: What would someone who suffered from chorophobia be afraid of?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of creature is a porbeagle?
6. SCIENCE: What scientist, also known as the father of taxonomy, discovered that some flowers open at certain times each day and can be used to tell time?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many U.S. states are named after a president?
8. LITERATURE: Who wrote under the pseudonym of Lewis Carroll?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What are capers?
10. MUSIC: What does the musical notation "da capo" mean?

Answers

1. Honshu
2. Syphilis
3. "The Princess Bride"
4. Dancing
5. Shark
6. Carolus Linnaeus
7. Only one – Washington
8. Charles Dodgson
9. Pickled flower buds
10. From the beginning

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Saturday's Answers



POPEYE

Hey Eisman!
SO YOU THINK POPEYE TAKES YOU FOR GRANTED
YES I DO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD MAKE HIM TAKE NOTICE?
MAYBE IF I WERE MORE OF A BABE HE WOULD BECOME MORE AWARE!
HMM...AN ELIXIR FOR CHANGING A HOMELY WENCH INTO A BABE!
MAGIC POTIONS
CHICKEN LIPS, LIZARD WINGS, SNAKE HIPS, AND OTHER THINGS!
DRINK IT ALL, DEARIE
KA POOF!
HMM...CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR
Eisman
www.wrightwriters.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

JOE, SUMMER IS AT AN END AND THERE'S SO MANY THINGS WE HAVEN'T DONE.
AH COME ON, WE'VE DONE PLENTY. WE'VE LAID IN THE SUN AND SLEPT AND EATEN.
OH MY GOSH, DID WE MISS OUT ON A MEAL OR SOMETHING?
YOU GIVE NEW MEANING TO "LOW MAINTENANCE."

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

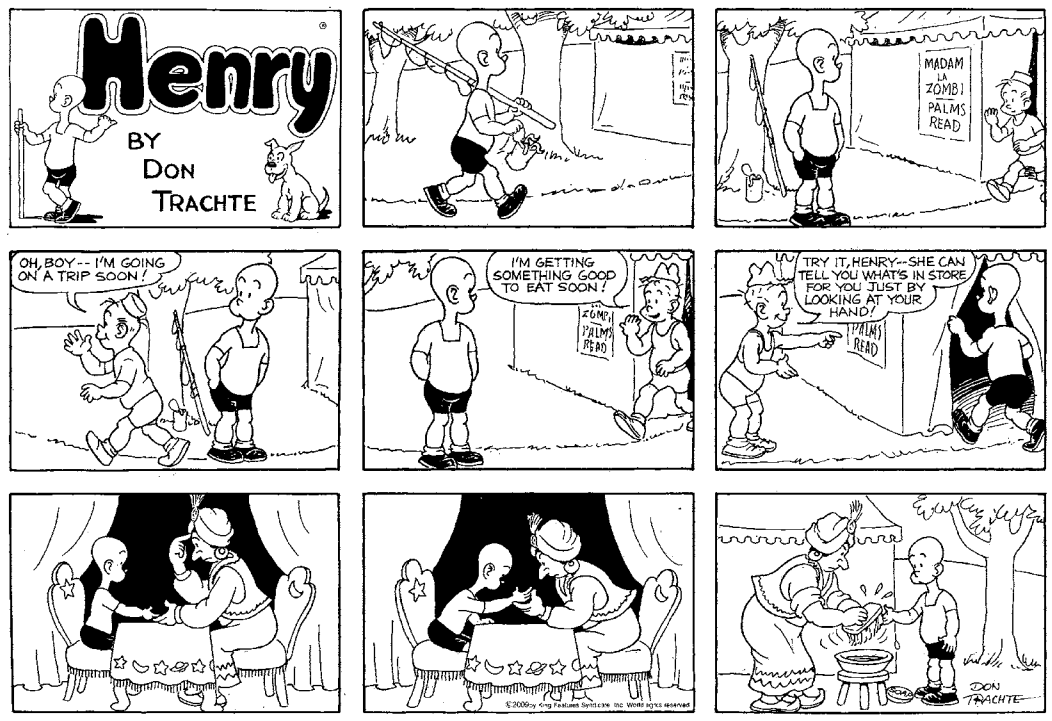
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

SAD SONG DEP'T— YOU ARRIVE AT THE LOCAL BENEFIT SHOW WITH A HANDFUL OF COSTLY MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS, BUT THE PIANO PLAYER WILL SAY IT EVERY TIME...
WHA-?
ER--UH-- I ONLY PLAY BY EAR...
Thanx to V. CAGGIANO, SANTA MONICA, CA.
QUESTIONS and NO ANSWERS DEP'T—
DADDY--HOW HIGH UP IS THE SKY? HOW DO BIRDS FLY? HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN? WHY ARE FLAMINGOS SO TALL? WHY DO COWS MOO? WHY ETC., ETC...
I DUNNO... GO ASK YOUR COMPUTER...
Thanx to R.J. POWELL, PORTLAND, ORE.
SIGN OF THE DIET TIMES— and NOW A FEW WORDS FROM THE BIG DESSERT GALS...
YES-- I START MY DIET TOMORROW, SO TODAY IS MY LAST FLING--
IT'S GOOD TO BREAK TRAINING ONCE IN A WHILE...
I HAD A VERY LIGHT BREAKFAST AND I WON'T EAT DINNER TONIGHT--
THEY WERE IN HERE YESTERDAY EATING THE SAME DESSERTS AND SINGING THE SAME TIRED MALARKEY...
Thanx to J. PASTERNAK, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE


MADAM LA ZOMBI PALMS READ
OH, BOY-- I'M GOING ON A TRIP SOON!
I'M GETTING SOMETHING GOOD TO EAT SOON!
TRY IT, HENRY-- SHE CAN TELL YOU WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU JUST BY LOOKING AT YOUR HAND!
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Au N PAR TWO

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.

AUTOMOTIVE

Truck for Sale-98 Toyota Tacoma $3000. Excellent working condition/ some rust. Call Kathleen 322-2891

FOR SALE - RESIDENTIAL

Near Dandan Elem. 2 BdRm concrete house approx. 900sqm. 35K reduce to 28K OBO. Contact 287-7571•256-6456.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Golden eagle

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
9 percent drop in foreign investors
Movie Awards
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS

2016 Olympic race too close to call ahead of vote

COPENHAGEN (AP)—In 30 minutes, it will be over.

Years of preparations, arm-twisting, sweet-talking and hopes will be rejected or rewarded Friday when the International Olympic Committee votes to select the host for the 2016 Games.

Chicago, Rio de Janeiro, Madrid and Tokyo—one by one—will be eliminated in a tense half-hour of successive rounds of secret balloting until one stands alone.

Shortly afterward, IOC president Jacques Rogge will break open a sealed envelope containing the winner's name and utter the magic words: "The games of the 31st Olympiad are awarded to the city of ..."

But on the eve of the vote, the IOC's 106 members were, as ever, keeping their thoughts to themselves. Only Tokyo seemed to have fallen out of the running. Otherwise, it was still too close to call between the beaches and bossa nova of Rio, the bustle and Lake Michigan waterfront of Chicago or the European elegance of Madrid. Everyone had reason to be hopeful, none reason to be sure.

"This is the big question, how will it go?" said Willi Kaltschmitt, an IOC member since 1988.

"There have been so many surprises in the past," he said. "It's very even at the moment. It all depends what happens in the first round."

As cities go out, loyalties will shift. That is where the contest will be won or lost. If Tokyo goes out first, will its supporters swing behind Rio, Madrid or Chicago and by how much for each? Could Madrid stun front-runners Chicago and Rio in the second round, knocking one of them out, with its seemingly solid core of backers?

The variables are such that any city could conceivably win or lose. A few votes either way could decide it. That is especially true this time, with all four cities seen as generally capable of holding the games. Some IOC veterans say there has been no closer contest in recent memory.

To prevent bribery, IOC members aren't allowed to visit the bidding cities - so they'll be deciding instead based on what they've read in committee reports. Some will go with their gut instincts, their emotions and personal interests.

Which is where President Barack Obama comes in, literally. He jets in Friday morning, for just five hours, to try to tip the outcome to Chicago. An Obama star turn could swing it—or possibly rebound against him if his adoptive hometown is knocked out. Coming for the day of the vote is a political risk, but so, too, was the risk that Rio might win if Obama didn't lend his charisma and inspirational example to Chicago's final push.

His election as the first black president in U.S. history resonated loudly in Europe, which has the most IOC voting members—46.

His wife, Michelle Obama, has worked the room before him, wowing IOC members with her charm and smarts. The first lady flew in Wednesday. While hesitant to declare that Barack Obama's appearance could be decisive, IOC members acknowledged it was hotly anticipated.

"It is a very special moment," said Gerhard Heiberg, an IOC executive board member from Norway. "Let me listen to him and see what kind of vision he has for the games."

Talk show star Oprah Winfrey is part of Chicago's hard sell, too. She swept Hollywood-style into the marbled lobby of the IOC hotel on Thursday, turning heads and stopping every other step to shake a hand or pose for a photo with IOC members and their wives.

But Chicago is up against equally charismatic opposition in the shape of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The bearded former union leader makes a compelling case for Rio. Foremost of those is that South America has never before held an Olympics and that the games shouldn't be the exclusive preserve of rich, developed countries. That is an argument the other cities can't use because their countries have all held the Olympics before. Like Mrs. Obama, Silva has been lobbying IOC members personally in Copenhagen, as has Spanish King Juan Carlos.

Rio appeals to IOC members who believe it's their duty to share the Olympic ideals and pursuit of sporting excellence with all corners of the globe. South America is also an untapped market for Olympic sponsors. The romantic appeal of Rio's beaches and mountains is strong. The soothing samba song "Mas que nada"—"Don't worry about it"—playing in the auditorium lent an exotic, dreamy air to a news conference that Silva held Thursday.

"For some countries, it is just one more sports event that they are going to organize," he said. "But for us, it is a unique and extraordinary thing."

He even borrowed Obama's catchphrase: "We want to overcome and show the world that yes we can."

The final throw of the dice for all four cities will be their 45-minute presentations of speeches and videos, followed by questions, that they will make in turn Friday before the vote. Kaltschmitt said he believes that 40 percent of his colleagues on the IOC were undecided going into Friday and were waiting for the presentations to make up their minds.

Added Heiberg: "We've already heard about the technical plans. I want something more. I want to know about the vision. The leaders have to lift it up. I want to know why they want the games."

It takes a simple majority for victory, although it is unlikely that any city will win outright in the first or second rounds.

Rogge doesn't vote and, as long as their cities haven't been eliminated, neither can members from Brazil, the United States, Spain and Japan.

That leaves 97 voters in the first round, with more in subsequent rounds. In the event of a two-city tie in the early rounds, a runoff is held between the cities. If there is a tie in the final round, Rogge can vote or ask the IOC executive board to break the deadlock.

British bookmakers had Chicago pulling away in the last hours as the clear but not overwhelming favorite.

"But don't forget that Paris was the favorite to beat London the last time," said Graham Sharpe, spokesman for betting agency William Hill. "The favorite doesn't always win."

AP

Security takes position as they wait for the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama ahead of the 121st International Olympic Committee session at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Friday, Oct. 2, 2009.

With refs locked out, NBA confident in 62 backups

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

With its regular referees locked out, the NBA is confident in its roster of replacements - even the two it previously fired.

The NBA begins preseason play Thursday night with 62 referees. The league said more than half have officiated in the NBA Development League, and all but five have worked the summer league.

It also said the two with league experience, Michael Henderson and Robbie Robinson, were some of the best replacements available.

Realizing the scrutiny the backups face, the league reminded teams Wednesday about its rules against publicly criticizing the officials. But senior vice president of referee operations Ron Johnson believes the teams won't have much to complain about.

"I think some people rise to the most amazing level of performance at amazing times," Johnson said on a conference call. "So we'll see."

Denver opened the preseason schedule at Utah on Thursday night, and the crew of Tre Maddox, Deldre Carr and CJ Washington had an uneventful game. They called 69 fouls and only a handful drew a noticeable reaction.

Players mostly shook their heads and smiled after the whistle until the third quarter, when Utah coach Jerry Sloan had a mini-outburst after Paul Millsap was called for fouling Carmelo Anthony. Sloan leaped out of his seat, barked a few statements at Carr and sat right back down.

"They'll have a month to get ready for the season, just like we will," Denver coach George Karl said after the Nuggets' 103-87 loss to the Jazz. "They'll learn some stuff. Right now, I don't see it being a problem."

The replacements will be paid about $1,100 per game, same as a first-year officials and more than they were paid in the D-League or WNBA.

The league had the replacements in training camp last weekend, but thought it wouldn't need them. The NBA said the referees union agreed in principle on a new contract last Friday, but backed out of the deal two days later. The league then told teams Tuesday it was going ahead with the backups.

"The teams and we in the best of worlds would like to have our current staff opening the season of course. They're the best 60 referees in the world. But having rejected the agreement reached by their negotiators, we're left with no choice but to use replacements," president of league and basketball operations Joel Litvin said.

"That's not ideal, but this is part of the sports business and we're moving on with this group. We have plenty of confidence in this group."

Still, Litvin said he expected some players to vent about the quality of officiating, so the league sent a memo to the teams warning them of the penalties for comments about the referees in hopes of preventing the frequent complaints that were heard during the last lockout in 1995.

"I can assure you, there will be less of that this time around," Litvin said.

The NBA expects the officiating to be stronger this time because it is relying on replacements from within its own system. While the 1995 backups were mostly from the Continental Basketball Association, this time 50 are from the D-League, WNBA or NCAA Division I.

"When you work in an NBA summer league, or work in the D-League, you are essentially working for our referee operations staff," Litvin said, "applying our rules, the NBA rules, our call interpretations, our mechanics, and these are all people who have officiated NBA players before."

Only Henderson and Robinson have done it in NBA games, and their rehiring was a disappointment to the union. Johnson said while they were fired because their performance didn't measure up to regular referees, it fits with the replacement group.

"People don't just get fired because they're incompetent, they get fired because relative to the performance of the staff standard," Johnson said. "I was not here when they were released. We know why they were released. Indeed, they've gotten some experience, they've stayed in the community of practice. I think they're ready to go."

Litvin said no further talks are planned with the regular referees, whose contract expired Sept. 1. So the replacement officials could be around a while—and the NBA is OK with that.

"We are very, very familiar with the abilities of referees at every level. We know these guys," Litvin said. "We didn't reach out to anybody who we didn't think could handle this job."

Rockies clinch playoff spot, NL West within reach

DENVER (AP)—Aaron Cook allowed just four hits over eight innings and Garrett Atkins drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies reached the playoffs with a 9-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Thursday.

The Rockies' fourth straight victory eliminated Atlanta, their final pursuer, from contention for the National League wild card. Colorado can still catch the Dodgers for the NL West title if the Rockies sweep a weekend series in Los Angeles.

The Dodgers, who have lost four straight, were off Thursday and watched their division lead over the Rockies get sliced to two games with three left.

At 91-58, the Rockies set a franchise mark for wins in a season and moved 23 games over .500 for the first time in their 17-year history.

AP

Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Aaron Cook works against the Milwaukee Brewers in the sixth inning of the Rockies' 9-2 victory to clinch a spot in the National League baseball playoffs in Denver on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009.

Cardinals 13, Reds 0

At Cincinnati, pitcher Chris Carpenter hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, as St. Louis trounced Cincinnati.

Carpenter's first career homer came off Kip Wells (2-5) and capped a five-run second inning for the Cardinals, who had lost five of six games — including three straight since clinching the NL Central title Saturday. He added a two-run double during a four-run fifth to match the career RBI total he brought into the game.

The right-hander also allowed just three-hits over five innings for his 17th win. Carpenter's grand slam was the 10th by a Cardinals pitcher and first since Kent Mercker connected at Florida on Sept. 2, 1998.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 3

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum struck out seven batters in his final start of the season and Andres Torres homered and hit an RBI triple as San Francisco finished its home schedule with a victory over Arizona.

Lincecum (15-7) outpitched Dan Haren (14-10) in a matchup of aces. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner completed his season with 261 strikeouts and a 2.48 ERA.

Pablo Sandoval had a sacrifice fly, an RBI single and a triple for the Giants, who won their fourth straight. They went 52-29 at home this season after going 37-44 in San Francisco last year.

Astros 5, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Cliff Lee was shaky in his playoff tuneup as the Phillies, one night after clinching their third consecutive NL East title, lost to Houston.

Miguel Tejada homered to extend his hitting streak to 18 games and Lance Berkman had a two-run double for the Astros.

Lee (7-4), a strong candidate to start Game 1 in the best-of-five division series Wednesday, worked 5 2-3 innings. The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner allowed four runs — three earned — and seven hits while striking out six.

The Phillies enter the season's final weekend one game behind the Dodgers in the race for best record and home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs. Los Angeles holds the tiebreaker after winning the season series 4-3. Philadelphia hosts the Florida Marlins in its last three games.

By drawing 44,905 fans, the Phillies set a franchise record for attendance at 3,465,206. The previous mark was 3,422,583, during last season's run to the World Series championship.

Nationals 2, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Pete Orr hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning and Washington beat Atlanta, hours after the Braves were eliminated from playoff contention.

Orr's one-out single to left drove in Ryan Zimmerman, who opened the ninth with a double off Rafael Soriano (1-6).

The little drama remaining in Atlanta's late playoff push ended about an hour before the game when Colorado clinched at least the NL wild card with its win over Milwaukee.

Twins 8, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Scott Baker got plenty of run support as he pitched the Minnesota Twins to a testy 8-3 victory over Detroit in the American League on Thursday, preventing the Tigers from clinching their first division title in 22 years.

Minnesota avoided elimination from the playoff race and moved within two games of the first-place Tigers with three to play.

The teams split the four-game series. Next up, Detroit hosts the Chicago White Sox this weekend. The Twins get last-place Kansas City at home.

Tempers flared late in the game when Detroit manager Jim Leyland was ejected during a face-to-face argument with umpire Angel Hernandez in the eighth inning after Minnesota's Jose Mijares threw behind Adam Everett.

Both benches and bullpens emptied in the ninth after Tigers pitcher Jeremy Bonderman hit Delmon Young in the leg. An angry Young slammed his helmet to the ground and shouted toward Detroit's dugout, but there was no pushing or punching.

Rangers 11, Angels 3

At Anaheim, California, Chris Davis homered and drove in three runs, and Julio Borbon triggered a six-run sixth inning with a go-ahead RBI single as Texas beat the playoff-bound Los Angeles Angels.

Kevin Millwood (13-10) recorded his 20th career complete game and third this season. He gave up two earned runs and seven hits in his season finale, tying a season high with 10 strikeouts. He also threw a season-high 122 pitches.

The Angels, who played their home finale, open the division series in Anaheim next week against Boston, which beat them in the first round each of the previous two years.

John Lackey, expected to start the playoff opener, threw 40 pitches over two innings and allowed two runs on four hits in his final tuneup.

Kendry Morales hit his 34th homer for the Angels.

Red Sox 3, Indians 0

At Boston, Jon Lester showed no ill effects from his injury last week in a final tuneup for the playoffs, pitching into the seventh inning as the Red Sox handed Cleveland its club record-tying 12th straight loss.

Boston snapped its season-long six-game skid.

Lester (15-8) gave up just two hits, walked one and struck out seven in 6 1-3 innings. He left after walking Jhonny Peralta with one out in the seventh.

The 25-year old left-hander was knocked out of last Friday night's loss to the New York Yankees by a liner in the third-inning.

Mariners 4, Athletics 2

At Seattle, Mike Sweeney followed a two-out error with a tiebreaking two-run single in the fifth inning to help the Mariners beat Oakland.

Doug Fister (3-4) went seven innings, allowing five hits and a run for his first win since Sept. 1.

David Aardsma gave up a solo home run to Jack Cust in the ninth, his 25th, but finished for his 37th save in 41 opportunities. He tied Kazuhiro Sasaki for third on the club's single-season saves list.

Orioles 3, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Waters allowed one run over five innings in his first start of the season as Baltimore stopped a 13-game losing streak by beating Tampa Bay.

The skid was the longest in the majors this season and the third-worst in Orioles history. Baltimore dropped 14 consecutive games in August 1954 and opened the 1988 season by losing 21 straight.

Ben Zobrist hit his 27th homer for the Rays.

Favre says he's not out for revenge against Pack

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—One minute, Brett Favre sternly insists he isn't out for revenge against the Green Bay Packers on Monday night. The next, he says it's only human for him to feel like he has something to prove to the team that traded him.

In his first extended interview session with Wisconsin-based reporters since well before his unretirement saga went public last summer, Favre reluctantly revisited his departure from Green Bay. He also awkwardly backpedaled from previous comments that indicated a grudge against Packers general manager Ted Thompson.

Favre will be wearing the purple uniform of the Packers' bitter NFC North rival at the Metrodome on Monday night, but said his career moves over the past year aren't based on revenge.

"Never was motivated for that reason," Favre said in a conference call. "No. That has nothing to do with it."

But when reminded of his comments to si.com in February, in which Favre said part of his motivation for coming back last season was "sticking it" to Thompson, Favre acknowledged he did want to show the Packers he still belonged in the NFL.

"It's human nature to feel, I didn't use the word revenge, but to prove that you still could play," Favre said. "To prove someone wrong, or prove a group wrong. So you can call it what you want."

Packers coach Mike McCarthy wasn't about to step back into a controversy that caused a major disruption during last year's training camp before Favre was traded to the New York Jets.

"I'm not going to comment on his thoughts and his words or anybody's thoughts or their words in Minnesota," McCarthy said. "We're really looking forward to playing the game, like we do every year. There is definitely added juice to it, no doubt about it, so we'll just leave it at that."

Favre said his main motivation for signing with the Vikings as a free agent—after retiring for a second time following a season with the Jets—was to win a Super Bowl.

"I'd like to win it all," Favre said. "I don't feel like I need to prove anything to anyone, first of all. I'm very proud of my career."

But if he's not out for revenge on the Packers and still wanted to play, why didn't he just stay with the Jets? Favre said at the end of last season, he wasn't willing to have the surgery he'd need on his torn right biceps tendon to continue playing.

"I knew I had an injury that would require surgery if I chose to play," Favre said. "And as disappointed as I was, I chose to go home and not have it and they chose to go in a different direction. That's how it evolved."

OK, so why did he ask to be released from his Jets contract when he retired?

"None of that matters now anyway," Favre said. "What matters is this game Monday night, and that's all the matters. This team has welcomed me here. It's been a lot of fun, it's been a lot of work, but I'm having a good time. And that's all that matters."

Favre reiterated he still considers Green Bay a "special place," but said he understands that some Packers fans have turned on him.

"I'm proud of the career I had there," Favre said. "So if there are people at this point that have picked sides, I'm not surprised by it. But you can't take that away. So it is what it is. But I can't control that."

And while tensions remain high between Favre and the Packers, Favre says he can envision a reconciliation with his old team sometime down the road. Packers officials have said they still intend to retire Favre's number sometime in the future.

"I'm sure it can (be healed)," Favre said. "Right now, that's not on anyone's mind. Their intentions are to win this game, as our intentions are. We'll deal with that later."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	102	57	.642	–
z-Boston	92	67	.579	10
Tampa Bay	82	77	.516	20
Toronto	75	84	.472	27
Baltimore	61	98	.384	41

Central Division

Detroit	85	74	.535	–
Minnesota	83	76	.522	2
Chicago	77	82	.484	8
Cleveland	65	94	.409	20
Kansas City	65	94	.409	20

West Division

y-Los Angeles	94	65	.591	–
Texas	86	73	.541	8
Seattle	83	76	.522	11
Oakland	75	84	.472	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

y- Philadelphia	92	67	.579	–
Atlanta	86	73	.541	6
Florida	85	74	.535	7
New York	67	92	.421	25
Washington	56	103	.352	36

Central Division

y-St. Louis	91	68	.572	–
Chicago	82	76	.519	8 1/2
Milwaukee	77	82	.484	14
Cincinnati	76	83	.478	15
Houston	74	85	.465	17
Pittsburgh	61	97	.386	29 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	93	66	.585	–
x-Colorado Rockies	91	68	.572	2
San Francisco	86	73	.541	7
San Diego	74	85	.465	19
Arizona	68	91	.428	25

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Minnesota 8, Detroit 3
Texas 11, L.A. Angels 3
Baltimore 3, Tampa Bay 2
Boston 3, Cleveland 0
Seattle 4, Oakland 2
St. Louis 13, Cincinnati 0
San Francisco 7, Arizona 3
Houston 5, Philadelphia 3
Washington 2, Atlanta 1
Minnesota 8, Detroit 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	4	0
Sonics	5	1
Sixers	5	1
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	4	2
670 Rollers 2	3	2
CK Saints	2	2
Rollers 1	2	3
Ol'Aces	2	4
Hi-5	0	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	4
Celtics	0	5

SEDA STANDINGS

Masters Division

Jonny's Black Stallions	58	27
D' Pirate's M- Destroyers	54	31
Oleai Snipers	49	36
VFW "Angry Dragons"	40	45
Bud's "Brothers" M	32	53
Oleai D' Companeros	22	63

A Division

Naked Fish Boyz	50	35
Jonny's "KUNEJOZ"	49	36
Bud's "FUJIN"	42	26
Jonny's "Load Up"	42	43
D' Pirates "101 Proofers"	36	32
Bud's "Brothers" A	36	49
Bud's "Enforcer"	31	37
Bud's "No Name"	20	48

Tuesday B Division

D' Pirates CK - Destroyers	53	22
D' Pirates "B" Destroyers	43	32
VFW Naughty Boyz	39	36
Buds Bar "Pure Budz"	31	44
Jonny's "Samurai"	30	45
Bud's "Bring it on 1"	29	46

Thursday B Division

Bud's "Brothers" B	67	23
Bud's "Bring it on 11"	58	32
Remington Naughty Boyz	55	35
Naked "Man F.O.T.T.E"	47	43
Bud's B-Bwiibwis	46	44
USSP "No Fear"	44	46
VFW "Dutty Gunz"	39	51
The Flair "Salut Balut"	38	52
Snicker N' Tuna "Lights Out"	29	61
The Flair "Get Sum"	27	63

C Kingfisher Division

Jonny's "Wasabe"	55	20
USSP "Young Gunz	48	27
Bar Gaia "Gaiana"	47	28
Remington "ADH"	38	37
VFW "One Shot"	37	38
BYE	0	75

C Chichirika Division

Bud's Bwiibwis "C"	46	29
Bud's C - Bwiibwis Barracuda	45	30
Snicker's "Lucky Shot"	43	32
Bud's Darty Deeds Dart Deux	38	37
D' Pirates "Sang & the Gang"	37	38
USSP "Bomsoro"	16	59

Ladies Division

VFW "Yakau"	39	21
Jonny's . Com	35	25
Bud's "Bwiibwis Mermaid"	24	36
Tijuana "B-52 Shooter's"	19	26
Snicker's "Mama Sniper's"	18	27

NMIFA YOUTH STANDINGS

Boys U13

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United-Blue	1	1	0	0	9	2	+7	3
Paire FC	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
Matansa FC	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Tan Holdings FC	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Independents FC	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
MP United-White	1	0	0	1	2	9	-7	0

Girls U13

Matansa FC	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
Paire FC	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
Independents FC	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
MP United	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

Erratum

Kazunori Suzuki is a supporter of Vivid Blue Football Club of Japan and not its president as was alluded to on the article "Japanese club donates gear to MP United" that was published on the *Saipan Tribune* last Sept. 19. Vivid Blue's president is Sachiko Tahara, who clarified that the said donation was made by Suzuki in Vivid Blue's behalf. He said, however, that Suzuki is not associated with the club in any way other than as a supporter.

Miguel Cotto feeling good, relaxed

MANILA, Philippines—While Manny Pacquiao continues to rock Baguio City with his mere presence as he prepares for his last fight of the year, his opponent, Miguel Cotto, is quietly getting himself ready for the bout scheduled Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

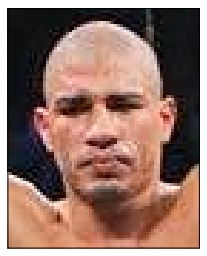
"Just getting back from the gym, everything excellent," Cotto posted in his Twitter page, even as his team has started getting busy trying to come up with a game plan against the hard-punching Pacquiao.

"[I'm] relaxed and feeling good," added Cotto, who has been posting regular updates on his Twitter page.

"Up until today we've held several meetings to examine what Manny can bring to the fight," Cotto trainer Joe James told PrimeraHora.com. "We are watching many Pacquiao fights. We also saw his two fights where he was defeated, but we are still watching more. Although he has dominated, there is always something we can capitalize on. We do not rule out any fight."

Cotto had earlier said he was aware of the Filipino ring icon's vaunted punching power, remarking during a recent press tour that "the punch he gave Ricky Hatton, if he hits with this kind of punch, he can throw Mike Tyson to the canvas."

"But I'm not Ricky Hatton," Cotto added.


Cotto

Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach, however, said the reigning pound-for-pound king will overwhelm Cotto with speed.

Roach predicted a knockout victory for his ward.

"I picked him to win by decision, but until I started working with him to this camp, the way he's punching, his speed, we will knock this guy out," Roach said.

"We will bust him up a little bit. Basically we're going to have a fast start and we're not going to give [Cotto] any momentum."

Pacquiao (49-3-2, 37 knockouts) will battle Cotto (34-1, 27 KOs) over 12 rounds for the Puerto Rican's World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight crown on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. Both combatants agreed to fight at a catch weight of 145 lb.

A win by Pacquiao will make him the first boxer to win world crowns in seven different weight divisions, including linear titles.

Meanwhile, Floyd Mayweather Sr. continues to harbor the belief that Pacquiao is no match to his undefeated son, Floyd Jr., who is coming off a 12-round decision over Juan Manuel Marquez.

"Pacquiao had [Marquez] down three times in one round and hurt bad and couldn't finish him," Mayweather told FightHype.com. "Not only could he not finish him, he got his ears boxed off after that, so what do you think my son would do to him?"

"Pretty Boy" Floyd and the Pacman are headed on a megabuck collision course next year.

Mayweather may also be headed for a pre-Pacquiao showdown against Shane Mosley, who called out the former pound-for-pound king right on the ring after the Marquez duel. ***(PDI)***

RGA Memorial Classic on Oct. 24

The 2009 Refaluwach Golf Association Memorial Classic will be held on Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The tournament will adopt a double peoria format with the champion pocketing $500. Aside from the champion winning a cash prize, the runner-up will get $400, third place $300, fourth place 200, and fifth and sixth places $100 apiece.

A $200 reward also awaits lowest gross for men and women, while other competitions such as a skills challenge (holes No. 6 and 15) and closest to the pin (holes No. 3, 8, and 12) will also be held.

Mulligans will be available at $5 a pop, with players only allowed to purchase a maximum of two. No restriction will be used from tee to green.

Donation for the tournament is $80 and its proceeds will be donated to Tanapag Elementary School. Check-in time for the RGA Memorial Classic is set at 6am with tee off scheduled an hour and 30 minutes later at 7:30am.

For more information on tomorrow's September Ace and next month's RGA Memorial Classic, contact RGA president Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MP UNITED

From Page 28

Jireh Yobech and William Camacho drilled one goal apiece in Matansa's victory over Tan Holdings.

William Hinson scored Paire's first goal and Hunter Jewell and Ju Young Kim followed suit to complete the team's strong debut.

MP United-Blue, Paire FC, and Matansa FC were awarded three points each for their victories in the opening week of the fall league and are tied for the early lead.

The league gives three points to a win, one to a draw and none to a loss.

The boys' U13 competition has a single round robin format, while playoff rules have yet to be decided. However, all six teams will play in the football festival, which is tentatively set for Nov. 14.

The girls' U13 also has the same format in the regular season and features only four teams.

Matansa FC and Paire FC posted similar 3-0 wins in their debuts last week against Independents FC and MP United-Blue, respectively.

Action in the fall league will resume next Saturday, as league coordinator Lydia Tan announced on Thursday that they decided to suspend games in Week 2 [today] due to Typhoon Melor.

Week 2 of the girls' U13 division originally scheduled two matches today with Independents playing Paire in the first game. In the second game, Matansa FC was supposed to collide against MP United-Blue.

In the boys' U13 division, the called-off games are Matansa vs. MP United-White; Independents vs. Tan Holdings; and Paire FC vs. MP United-Blue.

Besides the U13 division, the league also has competitions for co-ed U6, U8, and U10 categories.

Scores of the four co-ed age groups are not published, as NMIFA wants to promote the fun part of playing the sport more than the competition aspect of the game.

There are 38 teams participating in this year's fall league with the U8 division having the most squads with 10. The U6 and U10 divisions have nine teams apiece.

RUNNIN'

From Page 28

Hi-5 in the first game, 72-33, while 670 Rollers whipped sister team Rollers I in the second game, 90-35.

The Elias Rangamar-coached Runnin' Rebels had the game in the bag as early as in the first half, as they led by 25 at the break, 36-11,

Josh Kiyoshi and Ryan Ichihara anchored the Runnin' Rebels' early breakaway, combining for 22 points of the team's total output in the second half.

John Palacios and Eli Aughenbaugh joined the scoring spree in the second half to complete the Runnin' Rebels' demolition of Hi-5.

Kiyoshi finished with 26 points, while Ichihara logged 16, and Palacios and Augenbaugh drilled 14 and 10, respectively.

The win was the Runnin' Rebels fourth win in six games, putting them in a tie for fourth place with the Kagman Sparks.

Hi-5 remained winless in four games, joining Young 670 Rollers and Celtics at the bottom half of the team standings.

In the second game, 670 Rollers also had a walk in the park against Rollers I for the former's third win in five games.

670 Rollers drew double figures from four players with John Maratita leading the way, firing 19 markers. Jimmy Brel chipped in 14, Kroy Ogo added 12, and Jomar Danas contributed 12.

Richard Wang tallied 15 points for Rollers I, which dropped to a 2-3 slate.

Rotary, govt/biz league games suspended

Meanwhile, games in the Rotary and 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League last night were cancelled due to Typhoon Melor. Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands also called off today's game between Hyatt Regency Saipan and Customs.

"Both leagues will resume as soon as the weather improves. All canceled games will be rescheduled at a later date. Please understand that these are precautionary measures that league organizers must take to ensure the safety and welfare of the participants of the two leagues," league coordinator Ponce Rasa said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Typhoon Melor is expected to hit the island today.

First Game

Runnin' Rebels 72 – Kiyoshi 26, Ichihara 16, Palacios 14, Aughenbaugh 10, Nogis 6.

Hi-5 33 – Caro 9, Atalig 8, Urbano 5, Joab 4, G. Macahito 4, Reyes 2, Manibusan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 36-11, 72-33.

Second Game

670 Rollers 90 – Maratita 19, Brel 14, Ogo 12, Danas 12, Laniyo 8, Metran 7, Kaipat 6, Lisua 2.

Rollers I 35 – Wang 15, Palacios 8, Ano 6, Tudela 4, Brostrom 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-16, 90-35.

BUD'S

From Page 28

are the Oleai Snipers (49-36), followed by VFW Angry Dragons (40-45), Buds Brothers M (32-53), and Oleai D' Companeros (22-63).

Naked Fish Boyz holds a precarious one-win lead over Jonny's Black Stallions Jr. "KUNEJOZ" in the A division. Naked Fish Boyz has a 50-35 record against the Stallions' 49-36 mark.

Tied for third place are Bud's "FUJIN" and Jonny's "Load Up," after holding identical 42-26 slates. Others playing in A division with their corresponding standings in parentheses are D' Pirates "101 Proofers" (36-32), Bud's "Brothers" A (36-49), Bud's "Enforcer" (31-37), and Bud's "No Name" (20-48).

The C Chichirika division also has a neck-and-neck battle for the lead with Bud's Bwiibwis "C" having a 46-39 record against Bud's C Bwiibwis Barracuda's 45-30 slate.

Not far behind in third place is Snicker's "Lucky Shot" (43-32), followed by Buds Darty Deeds Dart Deux (38-37), D' Pirates "Sang & the Gang" (37-38), and USSP "Bomsoro" (16-59).

In the Tuesday B division, sister teams D' Pirates CK Destroyers and D' Pirates "B" Destroyers are in the Top 2 with the former holding a 53-22 record and the latter having a 43-22 slate. In third place are VFW Naughty Boyz (39-36), followed by Bud's Bar "Pure Budz" (31-44), Jonny's "Samurai" (30-45), and Bud's "Bring it on 1" (29-46).

C Kingfisher division has Jonny's "Wasabe" as leader with its 55-20 record. The battle for the next two spots is close with USSP "Young Gunz having a 48-27 slate against the 47-28 mark of Bar Gaia "Gaiana." Remington "ADH" is in fourth place with a 38-37 record, while VFW "One Shot" (37-38) and BYE (0-75) are in fifth and sixth place, respectively.

In the Ladies division, VFW "Yakau" is ahead of four other teams with its 39-21 record.

Jonny's.Com occupies the second spot with its 35-25 slate, followed by Bud's "Bwiibwis Mermaid" (25-36), Tijuana "B-52 Shooter's" (19-26), and Snicker's "Mama Snipers" (18-27).

Rockies clinch playoff spot, NL West within reach

Aaron Cook allowed just four hits over eight innings and Garrett Atkins drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies reached the playoffs with a 9-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

2016 Olympic race too close to call ahead of vote

In 30 minutes, it will be over. Years of preparations, arm-twisting, sweet-talking and hopes will be rejected or rewarded Friday when the International Olympic Committee votes to select the host for the 2016 Games.

25

Wabol, Manglona head home

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team CNMI will return to Saipan on Monday morning after competing in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

CNMI chef de mission Michael White and athletes Joshua Manglona and Jess Wabol left Rarotonga early yesterday morning for Auckland, New Zealand. From Auckland, they boarded a connecting flight to Cairns, Australia. They will stay in Cairns for three days before leaving for Guam and then for Saipan tomorrow.

The three CNMI representatives to the Mini Games are expected to arrive on Saipan at 7:30am on Monday.

Wabol joined the rain-delayed golf competition in the Mini Games and finished 21st with his four-round total of 305. The veteran par buster shot a 5-over par 77 in the first round and 3-over par 75 and 7-over par 79 in the second and third, respectively, before closing out strong with a 2-over par 74 in the fourth round.

Manglona was the Commonwealth's lone entry in the triathlon event and the Tinian resident completed his goal after finishing the race in less than three hours.

Wabol

Manglona

The 21-year-old athlete had a combined time of two hours, 54 minutes, and 36 seconds in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km race to place 10th among 11 male triathletes.

Fiji adds more gold, New Caledonia moves to second

One day before the Mini Games concludes, virtual overall champion Fiji added two more gold medals to its collection. Fiji has a 33-22-18 gold-silver-bronze medal tally in the penultimate day of the quadrennial meet.

New Caledonia jumped from third to second, bumping off Tahiti. The 2011 Pacific Games host has 21 gold medals, 21 silver, and 21 bronze against its fellow French territory's 20-22-15 tally. Samoa kept the No, 4 spot with its 16 gold medals, 14 silver, and 24 bronze, while host Cook Islands remained at fifth place with its 13 gold medals, 13 silver, and 15 bronze.

Cook Islands thank participants, supporters

Meanwhile, Mac Mokoroa, chief executive officer of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games Ltd., made an early acknowledgement of the participants and supporters of the Games.

"To the people of the Cook Islands who were behind the scene, the catering team, the cleaning team, the transport team, the volunteers that were up late hours, all of those that contributed to making the Games the best ever, thank you," Mokoroa said. "As the theme says, 'share the moments,' it is not just about receiving the gold, the silver, or the bronze medal, it is about us the children of the Pacific coming together and being one family."

"We share the joys, we share the grief, we share the disappointments to those who lost, we share the load of those who are burdened, we share the love, we share the winning moments, we share the moments of today because tomorrow is not promised to us. Thank you people of the Cook Islands, make sure you turn up to the closing ceremony as we say farewell to our brothers and sisters from the Pacific," Mokoroa added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

John Maratita scored 19 points in 670 Rollers's 90-35 rout of Rollers I during their game in the Rotary caging on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Runnin' Rebels, 670 Rollers rout foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Runnin' Rebels and 670 Rollers recorded blowout wins in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball on Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Runnin' Rebels crushed

See RUNNIN' on page 27

MP United-Blue off to strong debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United-Blue showed no love lost to sister team MP United-White, recording a dominating 9-2 win in their debut game in the boys' U13 division of the NMIFA Youth Football Fall League on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Jake Lee, Andrew Johnson, and Chris Park found the back of the net twice to lead MP United-Blue's rousing start in the six-team league.

Also scoring for MP-United Blue were Angelo Jones, Kennedy Izuka, and Jehn Joyner.

MP United-White's two goals were courtesy of Aaron Lee and William Fong.

Two more games in the boys' U13 division were played last week with Matansa Football Club and Paire Football Club shutting out separate foes.

Matansa nailed a 2-0 win over Tan Holdings Football Club on Field 2 of the Hopwood pitch, while Paire FC blanked Independents FC on Field 1, 3-0.

See MP UNITED on page 27

Sister teams MP United-White and MP United-Blue played in the opening week of the boys' U13 division of the NMIFA Youth Football Fall League on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Bud's Bring it On 1 pose for a group photo before playing in the Tuesday B division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League last week.

Bud's Brothers B widens lead in SEDA league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bud's Brothers B has the widest gap among the seven leaders in the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after last week's games in various bars on the island.

Bud's Brothers B is on top of the Thursday B division with its 67-23 win-loss record. The current leader is ahead by nine wins against second-running Bud's Bring it on 11, which holds a 58-32 record.

Completing the standings in the Thursday B division are Remington Naughty Boyz (55-35), Naked Man F.O.T.T.E (47-43), Bud's B-Bwiibwis Barracuda (46-44), USSP No Fear (44-46), VFW Dutty Gunz (39-51), The Flair Salut Balut (38-52), Snicker N' Tuna Lights Out (29-61), and The Flair Get Sum (27-63).

In the Masters division, Jonny's Black Stallions (58-37) are enjoying a four-win lead over D' Pirates M- Destroyers (54-31). In third place

See BUD'S on page 27